



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

---

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

*FIRST PARLIAMENT*

FIFTH SESSION

1964-65

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOLUME 15 (b)

Comprising Period

31st March, 1st—4th and 6th—11th April, 1964

**Inclusive Price of Volumes 15 (a) and 15 (b)  
Ten shillings Net**

THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, PRINTING DIVISION

LAGOS

House of Representatives Debates

1153

[Oral Answers]

31 MARCH 1964

[Oral Answers]

1154

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 31st March, 1964

The House met at 10 a.m.

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

LABOUR

Employment of School Leavers

**O.206. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, how many school leavers were found employment between October 1963 and February 1964; and how many are yet to be employed.

**The Minister of Labour** (Chief J. M. Johnson): Between October 1963 and February 1964, a total of 374 secondary school leavers were placed in employment through the services of my Ministry's Employment Exchanges. This figure does not, however, represent the total number of secondary school leavers employed during the period. Many school leavers are employed direct by employers. By the end of the period, 2,500 were recorded as unemployed.

**Mr E. C. Akwiwu** (Orlu South East): Will the Minister please say whether this number is restricted to Lagos or whether it is for the whole Federation?

**Chief Johnson**: I can only speak for Lagos in the matter of labour.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe** (Orlu West): It is reliably learnt that most of those who left higher school courses last year and have passed the examination even at principal level have not been employed in Lagos, even though most of those who left secondary school at the end of last year and who are still awaiting their results have been employed through the Exchange. Will the Minister make a statement on this rumour?

**O.207. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, how many school leavers, artisans and casual labourers registered in the Federal Labour

Exchange from October 1962 to January 1964; and how many of these have so far been employed.

**Chief Johnson**: As the answer to this Question is necessarily very long, I will have it published in the *Hansard* for the benefit of hon. Members.

The answer is as follows:—

Between October 1962 and January 1964 the following numbers of school leavers, artisans and labourers were registered or placed in employment through the services of my Ministry's Employment Exchanges:—

Region	School Leavers		Artisans and Labourers	
	Registered	Employed	Registered	Employed
Lagos ..	7,599	782	26,274	2,872
West (including Mid-West)	6,581	171	19,219	2,735
East ..	7,228	278	24,054	938
North ..	1,164	27	10,993	1,800
Total ..	22,572	1,258	80,540	8,345

Tiger-Fullmer Fight

**O.267. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, whether he will present a statement of account of the Tiger-Fullmer title bout; and if he will make a statement.

**Chief Johnson**: The completion of the statement of account for the fight has been delayed by complications arising from the settlement of guarantees given by Regional Governments which made the fight possible in Nigeria.

Discussions are, however, in progress with these Governments and it is hoped that the matter will be resolved in due course.

The Federal Government, however, guaranteed to the Promoters the sale of tickets up to £100,000 and paid this amount immediately after the fight.

**Mr Akwiwu**: Will the Minister please give us some general indication as to whether this fight was staged at a loss?

**Chief Johnson :** The indication is that it was staged at a loss. In fact, we never expected it was going to be a profitable fight; the prestige mattered more than the profit.

### Sports

**O.368. Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, what specific arrangements are being made to ensure that Nigeria pulls her full weight at future Commonwealth and Olympic Games.

**Chief Johnson :** The National Sports Council is making relentless efforts to ensure rapid improvement in the standard of performance of our sportsmen and women by means of effective training organised and supervised by coaches. Four of these international coaches are now preparing our athletes for the next Olympic Games in Tokyo.

**O.369. Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, how much the Tiger-Fullmer fight cost the Government of the Federation.

**Chief Johnson :** The hon. Member is referred to the answer which I gave to Question No. O.267.

### Orphans

**O.370. Mr J. A. Yacim** asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, if he will make a statement on the Government's attitude towards the welfare of orphans in Lagos.

**Chief Johnson :** It is the policy of the Federal Government to ensure that all orphans who are committed by the order of the Juvenile Court in Lagos are boarded with foster parents who are properly investigated and approved by the Social Welfare Division of my Ministry. Monthly maintenance allowances are normally paid to foster parents and these allowances are reviewed from time to time by the Juvenile Court.

In view of the advantages of family life to children in our society, I do not consider that at the present stage of our development the best way to deal with orphans is to put them in orphanages.

**O.371. Mr J. A. Yacim** asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, if he will consider taking over the running of the orphanages at Ogbomosho and Ibadan during this financial year; and if he will consider rendering financial assistance to all other orphanages in the country.

**Chief Johnson :** The Federal Government does not intend to take over the running of the orphanages at Ogbomosho and Ibadan. Matters relating to social welfare come within the competence of Regional Governments.

### INFORMATION

**O.374. Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Minister of Information, what efforts he is making to educate the common people on the activities of the Federal Government.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (Mr S. A. Yerokun) :** The Information Division of the Ministry is divided into a number of sections, each handling a specific aspect of the Ministry's publicity programme.

The Press Section issues Press Releases daily on the activities of the Federal Government as carried out by Federal Ministers, Officers of the Federal Government, Federal Government Institutions and matters of special and general interest to the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

An average of 300 Press Releases are issued every month and 500 copies of each are distributed daily to Nigerian Newspapers, Foreign News Agencies, and correspondents of foreign newspapers in Nigeria. Copies are also circulated among the various Ministries and Government Departments to keep them informed of the activities of the Federal Government.

Although these Press Releases are not distributed to members of the public, their contents reach all sections of the community through the pages of the newspapers printed and published in Nigeria.

The Press section also sends out an average of two or three feature articles every week to supplement the information contained in the Press Releases issued by the Ministry.

The overseas and Publications Section of the Ministry publishes pamphlets, and thus gives information about Nigeria. Notable among these pamphlets are the series on important Nigerian towns, those dealing with the country's important products and biographies of eminent Nigerians.

These pamphlets are widely distributed within and outside the country. They go to schools, social, commercial and business institutions, and are handed out at strategic positions in Lagos by female receptionists of the Ministry; for example at the Ikeja Airport and at the Federal Palace Hotel. It is estimated that at least ten Nigerian citizens call at the Distribution Section every day for the main purpose of collecting these hand-outs.

A magazine, *Federal Nigeria*, is produced every month by the Information Division, and although it is meant mainly for distribution overseas, enough of it circulates in the country to give a large percentage of literate Nigerians a broad view of what is being done in the country. There is also the *Nigerian Children's Own Paper*, published weekly and distributed among school children all over the country. This paper contributes a great deal to the education of school children of every age on their country and on other general matters.

A great number of photographs taken by the Photographic Section are reproduced in Nigerian Newspapers, Magazines and Periodicals. Photographs taken on historic occasions are constantly on display in some public buildings in the Federal Capital; for example, in the lobby of the Federal Palace Hotel, in the entrance hall of Independence House, and in the lobby of the House of Representatives.

The Federal Film Unit continues to film important events and to produce documentary films showing Nigerian traditional and modern life. These films are widely shown in public places throughout Nigeria. A number of mobile cinema vans financed by the Ministry of Information are in operation in the Regions with the co-operation of the respective Regional Ministries of Information. This system of sending out cinema vans from Lagos have proved very successful. At the moment, ten of these vans are in Northern Nigeria showing films on Federal Government activities; four are in the East, two in the Mid-West; and negotiations are still going on to have about

six sent to Western Nigeria.

The general public is also kept in touch with Federal Government activities through the *Nigeria Morning Post* and the *Sunday Post*, the two newspapers printed and published by the Nigerian National Press Limited, which is a company sponsored by the Federal Government. All Press Releases from the Federal Government are circulated very widely to all National and Provincial papers and all the Radio and T.V. organisations.

### MINES AND POWER

**O.376. Mr B. O. Ikeh** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he is aware of the promise he made regarding the mining of the lead-zinc deposits at Abakaliki; and if he will make a statement.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power** (Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika): The Minister has been informed that the Company concerned is now doing something about it, but the hon. Member will doubtless appreciate that reopening a mine which has been closed for over ten years is bound to take a little time. The mine should be in production in the not too distant future.

**O.379. Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** asked the Minister of Mines and Power if he would approach the appropriate quarters with a view to reducing the price of petroleum since petroleum is now mined and refined in the country.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika**: Petroleum is not refined in Nigeria at present. A Refinery is being built at Alesa-Elеме, near Port Harcourt, and is scheduled to commence production in April 1965. When in operation we hope the cost of home-produced petrol, etc., should be lower than the equivalent products imported from oversea. The Minister would ask the hon. Member to bear in mind, however, that the price paid for petrol contains an element of tax.

**O.380. Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** asked the Minister of Mines and Power when he proposed to give electricity supply to Igboora, Eruwa, Iseyin, Shaki and Kishi.

**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 Corporation's 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.

**O.382. Alhaji L. Daura** asked the Minister of Mines and Power whether, in view of the high cost of 5d per unit of electricity as is obtained in Katsina, he would consider the extension of the high-power electricity lines to this area in order to encourage industrial establishments.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika** : The cost of extending the Transmission Lines to Katsina would be very considerable and would not be an economic proposition at present. The Minister cannot, therefore, advise the Coproration to consider this at the moment.

**O.383. Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he would give detailed results of the geological surveys of Ogbomosho, Oshogbo, Ede, Gbongan, Ikirun, Ikire, Okuku, Ijigbo, Igbajo, etc., in Oshun Division, and if he would state where minerals have been found.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika** : The greater part of Oshun Division has recently been systematically geologically surveyed and the results will shortly be published in a Bulletin of the Geological Survey. The Minister regrets, however, that it is not possible, in answer to an oral question, to give the full details which the hon. Member has requested.

**O.384. Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he was aware that the electricity supply in Ogbomosho covered only a portion of the town and when he would supply electricity to other parts of the town.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika** : Ogbomosho is a fairly new undertaking and for financial and economic reasons the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria make a practice in all new undertakings of providing a supply, initially, only to the areas with the greatest number of potential consumers. Later, when the Undertaking is established, the distribution system is extended. The Corporation has advised the Minister that distribution extensions are now being constructed in Ogbomosho.

## DEFENCE

**O.268. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Defence, if he is aware that military institutions are sited in one Region which does not make for national security ; and if he will make a statement.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence** (Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla) : The Minister is not aware. Military Units are located in several parts of the Federal Republic, the location of any particular installation being determined by considerations of strategy, economy, geography and other relevant factors such as availability and cost of land. The hon. Member can rest assured that the present disposition of units does not endanger national security.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : Will the Minister please tell us in which other Regions military institutions are sited beside the Northern Region ?

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North) : May I know whether the Minister is aware that Awka has got all these advantages which have been enumerated ?

**O.269. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Defence, if he will establish Cadet training scheme at Dennis Memorial Grammar School, Onitsha.

**Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla** : An application from the Principal of Dennis Memorial Grammar School, Onitsha, for the establishment of an Army Cadet Unit at the School is at present receiving consideration in my Ministry. The hon. Member can rest assured that the Cadet Unit will be established provided the School satisfies the necessary requirements, *viz.*, availability of sponsor unit in the Nigerian Army for purpose of supervision, and availability of a member of the School staff with sufficient military experience to command the unit.

**O.270. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Defence, how many Boys Company of the Nigerian Army exist ; and what is the method of recruitment.

**Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla** : There is only one Boys Unit in the Nigerian Army, *i.e.*, the Nigerian Military School, Zaria. Any boy who has passed his first primary School leaving

certificate and is between the ages of 14 and 15 may apply in his own handwriting to Headquarters, Nigerian Army for admission to the School. Applicants are normally called to the School for a test and interview during the months of August and September and successful candidates are called forward to start training at the commencement of the school term early in January.

**O.385. Chief D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Defence, how many Foreign Service Chiefs have visited Nigeria since 1st October, 1960.

**Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla** : Five Foreign Service Chiefs have visited Nigeria since 1st October, 1960.

*Additional Information —*

Name	Country of Origin	Date of Visit
Brigadier D.D.M. McCready, C.B.E., D.S.O.	United Kingdom	14-7-61
General Mobutu	Congo (Leo.)	29-3-63
Colonel H. G. W. Hamilton	United Kingdom	1-7-63
Major-General D. S. Gordon, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.	United Kingdom	5-8-63
Commodore Hansen	Ghana	25-3-64

**O.386. Chief D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Defence, what resettlement schemes he has for serving soldiers and sailors.

**Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla** : Financial provision has been made in the Nigerian Army estimates for 1964-65 to provide for the construction of a resettlement centre at Zaria. When this is established, six-month courses in Carpentry, Brick Laying, Black-smithing and Welding will be run for non-tradesmen prior to their discharge from the Army in order to enable them obtain employment in civilian life. This scheme can also be extended to Naval personnel.

**O.387. Chief D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Defence, if he has any liaison with the armed forces of any of the countries around Nigeria.

**Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla** : No, Sir.

**O.388. Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** asked the Minister of Defence, if he will consider the granting of permission to Nigerians to manufacture shot guns and cartridges since the imported ones are very expensive, and many people in the Country make a living from hunting.

**Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla** : It is not possible, under Fire Arms Act, for any person to manufacture or assemble firearms or ammunition except at a public Armoury or Arsenals established for the Armed Forces. The Inspector-General of Police is however, empowered to grant at his discretion a permit to any person the manufacture of muzzle-loading firearms, such as dane guns. The Nigerian Ordnance Factory (scheduled to commence production by the end of the year) is designed to produce goods for military as well as civilian use, for example shot guns.

**FINANCE**

**O.127. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Finance, why he has not legalised the manufacture of gin in Nigeria by Nigerians.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance** (Prince A. Lamuye) : The hon. Member will no doubt have seen the Excise (Control of Distillation) Bill, which was published on 28th March, 1964, and which the House will be invited to consider at the present meeting. The Federal Government's concern is to protect the revenue arising from the Excise Duty on spirits, and the Bill lays down the conditions under which the manufacture of spirits (including, of course, gin) will be permitted. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East) : On a point of order, I do not know whether the Parliamentary Secretary is reading English or what. There is no word like sprits in English.

**Prince Lamuye** : It were better the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) had listened properly. I should add that the Bill is concerned solely with Excise control, which is within the Federal Government's competence. It is open to a Region to legislate for the control of any other aspect of the manufacture of spirits within the Region, provided only that such legislation does not conflict with the Federal law. (*Further Interruptions.*)

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe** (Orlu West) : This is very embarrassing to the Parliamentary Secretary. There is such a word as *Sprite* and he should go on, not minding the interruptions.

**Mr Speaker** : The Parliamentary Secretary is more conversant with financial language.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I quite appreciate the point made by my hon. Friend the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*), but as regards the point made by the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*), he is a spiritless individual.

**O.128. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Finance why he did exempt from customs duty cheese being imported into the country by the Catholic Relief Services for free distribution to school children throughout the Federation.

**Prince Lamuye** : The Member for Awka Central seems to have been misinformed. My hon. Friend the Minister has never exempted from Customs duty cheese imported by Catholic Relief Services.

**O.198. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Finance, how much loan his Government has so far granted Mid-Western Nigeria ; and what are the terms of repayment.

**Prince Lamuye** : £1 million from the First Federal Republic of Nigeria Development Loan has been on-lent to the Government of Mid-Western Nigeria. This loan matures on the 15th January, 1984. Interest is payable at 5½ per cent per annum. The annual Sinking Fund contribution in respect of the £1 million on-lent to Mid-Western Nigeria amounts to £23,516.

**Dr Nzeribe** : Is this applicable to all the new States to be created in Nigeria forthwith ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : Out of the £20 million loan that was last raised internally, £8 million had been on-lent to all the Regions and the Mid-West had £1 million out of the £8 million. The rest went to the other Regions. So it is not a grant or anything specially done for the Mid-West. It is a loan which was raised for all the Governments. £8 million went to all the Regions and the Mid-

West, being the smallest Region, had only £1 million.

**Mr Mordi** : Does the Minister not consider that in view of the fact that the Mid-West is a new Region, it ought to have had more of that loan ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : No, Sir.

**O.208. Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Finance, if there are still any enemy properties in Nigeria ; and what are their values.

**Prince Lamuye** : Three ex-enemy properties remain undistributed. They formerly belonged to Messrs J. W. Jackel and Company, and at 31st May, 1963, were valued at £4,071.

**O.271. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Finance, if he intends to abandon the training of dogs to combat smugglers.

**Prince Lamuye** : The Board of Customs and Excise has no dogs in training to combat smugglers or for any other purpose. The question does not, therefore, arise.

**O.272. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Finance, if he is aware that half-pennies in circulation are by far below normal ; and whether he intends to improve the situation.

**Prince A. Lamuye** : The Minister is not aware that half-pennies in circulation are by far below normal. According to figures supplied by the Central Bank, the amount of half-pennies in circulation at the end of February 1964 was £73,000 as compared with £53,500 in circulation at the end of February 1963, representing an increase of about £20,000 in one year.

**O.389. Mr S. Nnaji** asked the Minister of Finance, whether he is aware of the fact that the quantity of money in circulation is small ; and what plans he has to remedy this situation.

**Prince A. Lamuye** : The Minister is not aware that the quantity of money in circulation is small. According to figures supplied by the Central Bank, over £87 million were in circulation at the end of January this year. This compares with about £83 million and £78 million in circulation at the end of January 1963 and January 1962, respectively, representing increases of about 6 per cent in 1962 and 5 per cent in 1963.

House of Representatives Debates

1165

[Oral Answers]

31 MARCH 1964

[Oral Answers]

1166

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West): The present currency circulation was based on the old census, which was estimated at £2-10s per capital. Now, with the new census, will the Minister say if he has any intention of increasing the country's money in circulation to £5 per capital.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: With the new census, I am sure people will realise the need for the increased population to have increased productivity and, therefore, expand our market. Naturally, when there is increased productivity and the expansion of our market which will result from this new census, I can assure the Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) that more money will naturally be in circulation. But we shall not put more money into

circulation for people like the hon. Member to make use of because he is one of those who are already smugglers.

**O.390. Mr A. U. D. Mbah** asked the Minister of Finance, how much has accrued to each of the Regional Governments from the distributable pool under the revenue allocation system from 1st October, 1960 to-date; and what is the value of the revenue derived from each of the Regions for the same period.

**Prince Lamuye**: Figures received from the Accountant-General's office show that the following sums were paid out to the Regional Governments from the Distributable Pool from 1st October, 1960 to January 31st 1964. Figures from February 1964 to-date are not yet available.

		North	West	East	Mid-West
October 1960 to March 1961	..	3,215,945	1,932,622	2,490,256	—
April 1961 to March 1962	..	6,488,819	3,898,559	5,024,597	—
April 1962 to March 1963	..	6,697,507	3,995,303	5,248,098	—
April 1963 to January 1964	..	5,446,603	2,791,907	4,217,560	481,230
TOTALS	.. ..	21,848,874	12,618,391	16,980,511	481,230

**Mr Mbah**: The Parliamentary Secretary has answered the first aspect of my question. He has not, however, answered the second aspect of it.

**Prince Lamuye**: As for the second part of the Question to which the hon. Member seeks to have an answer, I think the Ministry has no figures to answer such a question. The statistics to answer such a question are not available at present, but I want to call the hon. Member's attention to one thing. He bases his question on a pre-purpose in part that the import duty paid on every imported article consumed in each of the Regions of the Federation is recorded against that Region, which is not the case.

**Mr Mbah**: I really cannot understand why the Ministry is trying to evade a question like this. I wanted to know the value of the revenue derived from each of the Regions for the same period. I am not talking about imported duty or no imported duty. It is a straightforward question and if they are not willing to answer it, let them say so.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: I do not know what fuss my hon. Friend is making. Naturally, the question is ambiguous and it does not require any answer. The revenue derivable from each Region is a matter both for the Region and ourselves. We have had our own figures, but we have not the figures of the Regions and, therefore, it is not for us to give the hon. Member figures which are inaccurate. That is the answer.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema): That is the question.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: That is not the question the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*). The questioner is not specifically asking us to give the revenue derivable from each Region by the Federal Government. It is a general question; it is ambiguous and an ambiguity cannot be answered in precise terms.

**O.392. Mr A. A. Odurinde** asked the Minister of Finance if he will give the rate of daily allowances payable to Ministers, Parliamentarians, Parliamentary Secretaries whilst on official tours within or outside the country.



[MR CHIEDOZIE]

*the contingent serving in the Congo has earned high praise from the United Nations Command."*

The point that should touch hon. Members most, is the fact that their morale is very high. But it is quite clear that unless adequate barracks are provided to house all our policemen and women, their morale will soon begin to dwindle.

Members of the Police Force encounter lots of difficulties when they live in private quarters. Their neighbours give them trouble and sometimes quarrels ensue during which their wives are maltreated. The result is that these class of officers find themselves in the court of law. If adequate accommodation is provided for them, it will enable them do their work very well.

Now I come to this question of the Mobile Police Squadron. The Government must be commended for the initial start they have made to encourage the members of this squadron. There is no doubt that we commend our Policemen and women for their courage and fortitude in quelling disorder with inadequate materials. This has been happening everyday. If there is any internal disorder, we find our policemen facing a violent mob without any equipment. As a result, some of them may get killed. I shall come to this question of policemen running grave risk of their lives later.

The Police Fire Fighting Service is not well equipped too. They try to control fire without adequate equipments. We want an up-to-date fire fighting service.

In the case of anti-smuggling equipments, I would say that the police should be properly armed. I realise that the Minister of Finance has done very well in this direction by protecting the policemen and women.

With regard to Criminal Investigation equipments like finger printing equipment, and photographic equipment laboratory, I would say that these equipments require modernising. We require a modern scientific and up-to-date equipments.

In fact, I am advocating that we should call for experts from the United States of America United Kingdom or even Russia where there is a very high criminal investigation standard.

With the help of these experts, we shall be able to learn the type of equipments they are using and will have to do away with some of our old instruments.

Now, I come to the question of insuring the lives of policemen and women especially those undertaking risky ventures. For instance, during the Tiv riots about four policemen were killed. In this connection, may I know what the fate of the children and family of the deceased policemen will be. Their lives must be insured so that when they die, their family will get something to live on.

As it is now, they are exposed to very heavy risks and no provision has been made for them should they die during their official duties. I am, therefore, advocating that the lives of our policemen and women should be insured. It is very important and I am appealing to the Government to sympathise with the police in this regard.

The next point is the question of salary structure and condition of service. In the 1964-65 estimates, it is shown that the ranks of senior inspector, sergeant major, staff sergeant and lance corporal have been abolished and their establishment and salary scales have been co-ordinated. Constables are no longer graded as first, second and third class. When I spearheaded the abolition of this retrogressive salary segmentation, I knew that the Prime Minister was humanitarian and sympathetic enough to give it a favourable consideration. The former system was one of the legacies of colonialism which we inherited from our colonial masters.

In the old system, a man could be a first class constable for twenty-five or more without any hope of advancement. If hon. Members went to Enugu, they would see so many policemen who have rendered more than twenty to twenty-five years service and are still first class constables. But with the present reorganisation, a policeman can get on until he reaches the grade of a corporal. The Prime Minister should be commended for doing this very good work.

However, the Prime Minister made a statement on the Floor of this House last year to the effect that there would be a new salary structure and also a salary revision. The question of salary structure has been cleared, but that of salary revision still remains.

*House of Representatives Debates*

1173

[*Service Conditions*

31 MARCH 1964

*of Police Officers*]

1174

When the Prime Minister promised to revise their salaries last year, all the policemen and women were very happy. They thought that there would surely be a revision of salary but what they saw was police segmentation. That is all right to some of them, but to others, salary revision is a necessity.

The Prime Minister should therefore make a statement on this burning issue.

In fact when a salary revision was announced by the Prime Minister, what we saw was that the Inspector-General and the three Commissioners in the Regions had their salaries properly revised. The mere fact that there was a revision at the top justifies the necessity of revising the salaries of those at the bottom. That is my case. From all what I have been saying, it will be seen that there is real need for a drastic salary revision and an overhaul of the salary structure. We may call it a Republican revision.

The initial salary of our policemen at the moment is not satisfactory. The cost of living is very high and all of them buy from the same market that we hon. Members patronise. Hon. Members will realise that the policemen and women provide themselves with equipments because of the inadequate equipments given to them by the Government. We should also realise that members of the Police Force have no trade union to fight out their case. Nobody speaks for them at all except some of us who come from predominantly police areas. These members of the Police Force are part and parcel of our constituencies and in order for us to do our job to our constituencies we are bound to champion their cause.

The members of our Police Force are entitled to send their children to schools and colleges and of course, to universities. They are human beings like ourselves. But the interesting thing is that despite their handicap in all these things, their efficiency is always high.

I would like to enumerate some of their duties because some people do not actually feel that they are doing anything. The anti smuggling policemen are doing very well by minimising the smuggling of contraband goods, and in this way—with apologies to the Minister of Finance, they are trying to check

our trade imbalance because when goods are not smuggled again, the question of our imbalance of payments would be easily solved. I am sure they are helping the Minister of Finance.

Furthermore, the policemen and women are combating very excellently against thieves, cases of murder, slave dealing, child theft, robbery and house breaking.

Many hon. Members have heard about the activities of terrorists in other parts of the world. When one is going in one's car one suddenly finds gangs of terrorists coming out of the bush to cut off one's head. They hid even in the bush. Is it not a matter of pride that in Nigeria, we can move about as freely as we like? This is one of the things for which we are praised in Africa and in the world in general.

Our policemen have totally obliterated the *Odozi Obodo* society, the *Igwe Kalu* society, the Akure-Ondo ritual murders, and various dangerous malpractices in the country. We should be grateful to them. They expose various acts of subversion, treachery and sabotage against our dear country, and have saved the community from civil disorder which could have led to the massacre of citizens in cold blood. These have been done in the rain and in the sun and everywhere.

The Police have guarded the people of this country, protecting their properties both day and night. They are doing a lot. Owing to the high security and intelligent activities of our policemen, they have been able to give protection to the various Heads of States who have visited this country. Such Heads of States included the Prime Minister of India, Mr Nehru, Haile Sellassie of Ethiopia, Hamani Diori of the Niger Republic, Hubert Maga of Dahomey, Leon Mba of Gabon, and these people have given very good testimony of the efficiency of our Police Force.

Our Policemen have been a credit to this country through their meritorious service in the Congo. We must not forget our police women who are also a credit to our country, because of their honesty and high sense of responsibility in the discharge of their duties. Their feminine touch in handling cases and their carefulness have been outstanding.

[MR CHIEDOZIE]

There is one great success for our Government and that is in the creation of the Women Police Force. The police women are solving social welfare problems in the proper way and they have proved their mettle in all activities, in spite of difficulties and their rather inadequate salaries. Because of these activities that I have mentioned, I crave that these people should be given adequate salaries. I shall go further.

There have been praises from distinguished personalities and I would like to read some to hon. Members: Mr J. E. Hodge, the retiring Inspector-General of Police on his departure paid glowing tributes to the efficiency and honesty of our Police Force. He said, among other things:

*They are a well disciplined and loyal team.*

The Minister of State responsible for Police Affairs, Mr Olarewaju, concluded his speech on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill by saying:

*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.*

That is Mr Olarewaju sitting down there and his statement goes to show that he is aware of these men's efficiency.

The Prime Minister, in his foreward to the General Report and Survey of the Nigerian Police, paid the following tribute to the Police:

*In the Congo, the Nigerian detachments continued to be a credit to Nigeria, maintaining their high standard of service. My thanks are extended to all ranks of the Police Force for the loyal execution of their duties and devotion to the task of maintaining law and order throughout the Federation.*

That is the Prime Minister praising our policemen. These personalities and statesmen have spoken eloquently about the good work of our policemen.

After all, to-day, we are saying that we want the Secretariat of the Organisation for African Unity in Nigeria. Members will notice that many of the meetings of the O.A.U. have taken place in Nigeria; many other international meetings have also been held here. If there was no law and order, these meetings could not have taken place. Other parts of Africa know that Nigeria is a very peaceful

place, and that is why they meet here, in order to deliberate on the future of Africa. Surely, if we have terrorism, we cannot have economic progress, and we certainly will scare away foreign capital.

For these reasons, I am recommending that the following suggestions be considered by the Government: The first is a drastic review of the salaries of the Force excluding those reviewed recently, but with particular emphasis on the junior service men. The salaries require very drastic revision.

The second thing I would like to recommend is that in the rural areas, the Sergeants and Inspectors manning the local stations should be promoted to the rank of Assistant Superintendent of Police so that we could have real discipline. I do not mean that the Inspectors are not doing well, but in order to encourage some of these men, the most senior amongst them should be promoted to the rank of A.S.P. and sent to the rural areas to man the stations. Although the Government is doing a lot at the moment, more is still required to be done.

On the question of recruitment, I think that in view of the increased population, more than five thousand men should be recruited. There is no doubt that the rapidly increasing population has given rise to some problems and that our policemen will be faced with increasing difficulties and responsibilities and exerting conditions. Only a very good salary revision would make them face their problems with equanimity of mind and resourcefulness.

Another thing that I want the Government to consider is the establishment of a Police Academy. This should be a meeting point for all trainees from the various recruiting centres in the North and the South and it would be able to encourage unity. The trainees would have a chance of studying the idiosyncracies of others. They would also have a good idea of human relationship. That is the type of thing we all want. There should be a research branch in the proposed Academy, the type of which exists in the United Kingdom, and highly technical equipment for research work should be made available there. We can make this academy our own "Scotland Yard". After all, we are now independent, and we want to be proud of our institution.

The Police Academy would unite all tribes and it would reduce tribal loyalty; regional individualism will be completely abolished.

Another recommendation I would like to make concerns the system of promotion. If examination is going to be the criterion for promotion, it should reflect the ability, industry and cleverness of those in the Force so that the man who tops the list should be taken. Allowance should be given for proportional representation, however, but clever ones should be encouraged. That is the only way we can kindle their enthusiasm in their work.

Another recommendation is in connection with the establishment of a Police Advisory Council. Let the Minister in charge of Police consider the advisability of establishing an Advisory Council consisting of some experienced retired policemen from the junior and senior grades. Its duty mainly would be to advise Police Service Commission on methods of improving the service conditions of policemen and raising their efficiency generally. The Council will possess no executive responsibility, and the Police Service Commission will be free either to reject or accept their recommendations. After all, when we set up an advisory council, we can reject or accept its advice.

If these things are done, the tempo of police activities would be increased. It would inspire their investigating ability, accentuate their instinct for patriotism and their obedience to the state. It would also engender confidence in this our fatherland and make our policemen a proud and disciplined Force.

Hon. Members will agree with me that in our advocating for the improvement of the conditions of service of the Police the Prime Minister has co-operated with us, and we require, in this House, to praise him for that. These criticisms put forward, however, should be given serious consideration by the Prime Minister. Our policemen are very loyal.

There is one very important point which I want to make. Hon. Members are well aware that public processions have been banned in some areas in Western Nigeria, and in these areas the police are to maintain law and order. I now want to point out to hon. Members how these policemen are suffering. If one makes a careful examination of the areas where public processions have been banned one will discover without difficulty that those are the areas where the party in power in that Region is very unpopular. Those areas where the party in power is popular have been left free so that there may be opportunities for political

campaigns and meetings to be carried on. The banned areas are those where they have no hope of winning elections, and those are the areas where the opposition parties, though popular, cannot carry on any political campaign. None of the opposition parties is now campaigning because of the ban. But one would notice that, particularly at Oshun, the Premier of Western Region carries on campaigns.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Mr S. A. Lana) : On a point of order, it appears the Mover of this Motion (*Mr Chiedozie*) is very irrelevant. He was discussing promotions and conditions of service of the Nigeria Police, and now he has switched over to the Western Region Government activities. He is very irrelevant.

**Mr Speaker** : It is quite out of order, because the banning of public processions is not the responsibility of the Police.

**Mr Chiedozie** : The point that I am making concerns the conditions of service of the Police. There is no doubt that these policemen will do their work very efficiently if left alone. But when people decide to use the Police as a means of achieving their own political ends, law and order will surely break down, and that is a situation wherein hooliganism reigns supreme. This is what is going on in the Western Region to-day under the very nose of the Premier of the Western Region. The point is that the Police should be protected from being used by individuals as a means to further the activities of such individuals. The Police should be allowed to do their work without molestations.

In the newspapers of to-day, there is an SOS sent to both the President and the Prime Minister.—

**Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** (Oshun South East) : On a point of order, it is improper to bring the Western Region to the Floor of this House for debate. The Western Region Government knows what is going on in its own Region and that Government is equal to its task. This should therefore not be brought here for debate. It is a waste of time.

**Mr Speaker** : The hon. Member should avoid the Western Region as an example and quote another case in his line of argument.

**Mr Chiedozie :** Mr Speaker, the point I am making is that in the newspapers of to-day an SOS was sent to the President and the Prime Minister, and I am saying that lawlessness is applicable once an SOS is sent in this way. I feel that the Police are very efficient, and, if allowed to do their work, they will do it very well. But when the Police is used as a means of achieving political ends, there will be lawlessness. I am therefore calling on the Prime Minister to make investigations and find out what is happening. In Nigeria where we claim to live happily under the protection of an efficient Police Force, we cannot tolerate a situation where people's property and lives are most unsafe.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments** (Mr Akubakar Isandu) : On a point of order, my hon. Friend, the Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*) referred to a publication in to-day's newspaper in his argument. Now, if we are to believe what he said, I would like him to go further and comment on a publication in one of the newspapers of to-day wherein it was stated that six people somewhere in a Division near Enugu were murdered for juju.

**Mr Speaker :** I do not think that such statements which hon. Members are themselves not serious about should come to the Floor of this House.

**Mr Chiedozie :** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the time given to me. I have confidence in the sagacity of the Prime Minister and in his ability to save this country from breaking into pieces. I trust in his wisdom and I say that what he has done for the Police so far is excellent. I also feel that the points I have made are very strong for the Government to consider. The matter of salary structure is one of the things touching the mind of our Police and once this is looked into, the Prime Minister's name will be kept indelible in the pages of the history book of the Police and that of Nigeria as a whole.

Sir, I beg to move.

**Mallam Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central) : I rise to second this Motion ably moved by the Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*). In doing so, I would like to make a few comments. To begin with, I think it is very

appropriate to look at the career in the Police Force as a whole and to examine the Police institution. The Police institution is naturally peculiar. In the Police Force one expects, among other things, loyalty, devotion to duty and sacrifice. Looking into these things one can easily come to the conclusion that this Motion is very timely. The Police institution, as I said earlier, is naturally peculiar. It is peculiar only to a truly democratic country; it is only in a truly democratic country such as ours that one can expect the Police to be as impartial as they are in Nigeria.

That our Police are impartial is a fact beyond any reasonable doubt. As the hon. Mover of this Motion has said, the Police have no trade union through which they can lodge their complaints. If, for example, any trade union goes on strike, the Police Force comes first in the maintenance of law and order. If dock workers go on strike, we expect the Police to go there. If locomotive drivers go on strike, we expect the Police to go there and maintain law and order, and if we can possibly find among the Police those who can drive locomotive engines, we expect them to become temporary locomotive drivers. With a realisation of the importance of the Police Force one should expect that a truly democratic government, and a truly representative Parliament such as this, should do as much as possible to improve the conditions of service of the Nigeria Police Force.

I am sure that every Member of this House is a living witness to the fact that our Police has always lived up to expectation. The Nigeria Police Force projected Nigeria's personality in the Congo and contributed in no small measure to the attainment of our independence without bloodshed. One can always remember the last Federal elections to this Parliament in which the Police contributed a lot towards the maintenance of law and order, both during and after the elections. One can also see in many other aspects that the Police have contributed, and still contribute, to the maintenance of law and order in this country. As I said, the Police have no trade union movement through which they can lodge their complaints. It is only through a representative Parliament such as this that they expect the Government to provide adequate measures whereby their conditions of service could be improved.

I think it is not too late to remember what happened in this country in 1962 both during the Western Nigeria crisis and the attempts made by some people to overthrow this Government. It is not too late also to remember what the Police have done to combat all sorts of crimes in this country. For that reason, I think it is right that this Government should do everything possible to see that their conditions of service are improved.

The Mover of this Motion made several points, to which I may add that one of the things which should be considered as well is that when promotions are made in the Police Force, those police officers in the rural areas should not be forgotten. At the moment, some police officers in the far North are grumbling of lack of promotion. During the debate on the Presidential Speech, I made mention of grumbings by other police officers in the far North who were not considered when some policemen were promoted. I appeal to the Prime Minister to see that wherever there are police detachments, the policemen there should not be forgotten when the time of promotion comes.

I beg to second.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central): In supporting this Motion, may I say that the functions of the police are unique in themselves. Not only do our police do the normal police duties which other police officers in other parts of the world do, such as investigation of crimes, maintenance of law and order and protection of life and property, but they also, in Nigeria, perform the very important function of conducting cases in the courts. In other words, they are performing the functions of law officers.

We know that in England, for example, cases are conducted and prosecuted by trained lawyers, but here the police in a majority of cases in the Magistrate's Courts perform these duties thoroughly well. In the handling of cases, policemen are prosecutors here. Though they are not lawyers, but they live up to the expectation of every right-thinking person. Cases are conducted in most cases by the police without fear or favour, and in most cases also they gain convictions.

Apart from this, they join with their activities the functions of soldiers—army officers. In England, for example, the police there do not

carry arms, but in Nigeria they do carry arms, which is also to their own credit. Apart from this function also, the police still earn the highest regard of every visitor that comes to Nigeria by their smartness, by their loyalty and by the ungrudging way in which they perform their functions. In fact, they work round the clock. The Police Ordinance says that a policeman works at all times: that is the way to describe their work. They have no time limit. If they are called up by night, they will come out; if they are called up by day, they will come out, and if they are called up when the sun shines or when the rain falls, they will come out. As a result of the unique functions which they perform, they must be entitled to special treatment as far as their salary structures are concerned.

In this respect, I must respectfully ask the Prime Minister to do to the Nigeria Police what a famous British Prime Minister, Sir Robert Peel, did to the English policemen. Sir Robert Peel's name is indelible in the history of the English Police because it was he who, having seen the arduous functions of the Police, raised all of them to what they are today. It is a very good parallel that our Prime Minister whom we praise here, not without justification, and in whom we have confidence, having regard to what was stated to-day on the Floor of this House, will do his very best to improve the condition of the Police.

If I might go a bit into details as far as the maintenance of law and order is concerned. When we were coming for this present Session of Parliament, we thought that we were going to meet our Waterloo—that perhaps there might be this or that. But as soon as we came—

**Several hon. Members : Why ?**

**Mr Muojeke :** Please let hon. Members not disturb me. As soon as we came here, we were impressed by the orderly way in which the Police handled not only the ordinary man in the street, but every person including Members of this House. It is no exaggeration to say that everybody was highly pleased with the way they conducted the question of coming into this House and going out. It is to their eternal credit, and to them credit is due.

If we politicians—I know Members will shout me down when I say this—if we politicians can behave as the policemen are doing in

[MR MUOJEKE]

this country, there will be everlasting peace and tranquillity in Nigeria; there is no doubt about that. The loyalty of the policemen is undivided. Whenever politicians get into trouble, the first person they call is the police. I am saying with all seriousness that their case needs special treatment.

As I have said, this Motion is not asking for too much. It is just a question of trying to improve the condition of the Police. If we come here to tell home truths to the people on top—the people who govern this country—the Prime Minister and his able Cabinet Ministers—we must not forget to mention that in matters of promotions and salaries for the Police, a lot is left undone; much is still expected.

I remember that we are being told to eschew bribery and corruption: it is the Police that we look upon to execute it on anybody who happens to be corrupt or to offer or accept bribe. If we want the Police to execute it properly, they must be adequately paid. In this respect, the theory of economy of high wages will do immense good. Economy of high wages is that if a person or a labourer is working for you conscientiously with all industry and with all honesty and you pay him a fat salary, he will produce more. It will increase his productivity, it will improve his efficiency and his loyalty will be undivided.

Now, we see that sometimes when the policemen are sent to attend courses, on completion, the results are not made known to them. The next thing that follows is that promotion is made here and there, from one person to another. That is a system to promote under-hand dealing. What I am trying to say is that since we send these men of all ranks to undertake some courses, the results should be made known to them immediately. Before these men are sent for training, they are regarded as capable of being promoted. Therefore, at the completion of their courses they should be promoted instead of waiting for something to be done.

If we take the conditions of service of the lower ranks of the members of the Force, we know that their salaries are very poor. We see that a great many of them remain in the service sometimes for 25 years as first-class constables. They mark time for a very long time, with increments of up to £15 and nothing more.

In England there is a system by which they get annual increments. If our policemen are regarded as good enough to remain in the Force, they should be entitled at least, to regular annual increments. The increment would go to show them that their services are appreciated. But if their increments are withheld, that is the quickest way to promote a state of disunity, a state of disillusionment and a state of disloyalty in the Force. I feel that if you tell them that you appreciate their work by giving them something, you will see that they will be happier.

Finally, if the conditions of our finances warrant that, the best thing, if possible, is not to over-work them. They are very few and they are doing strenuous jobs. If we have enough money we should increase the strength of the Police Force. Now we see a detachment of 20 men doing the work of about 50 or 100 men. This is over-tasking them.

In fact, if we want efficiency we should also raise the standard of entry into the Force. I know that as soon as the standard of entry is raised there will be increased efficiency in their work.

I will take this opportunity to pay glowing tribute to what the Police Women do. We lawyers who work more intimately with them know that they are more incorruptible. You can depend on them. If they come to court to give evidence, you will be sure of whatever they tell you. They are always accurate and you can rely on a Police Woman's version of an evidence. In fact as far as incorruptibility is concerned, it is more in the Police Women, and I know there is no discrimination in their salary. I think that they are doing enough to be encouraged. I do not think there are many of them in the Northern Region. The Northern Region should have many Police Women so that they may see the benefit we can derive from employing not only men in the Police Force but also women.

I beg to support.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema):** We on this side of the House would like to support this Motion. Although the Mover rambled into regions unconnected with this Motion, still I would say that it is a very good one. It is non-controversial. There is nothing wrong with it at all. In fact I would go further to say that the Motion should have been more

There is still another alternative. We should, in our system of education provide for a better understanding amongst both the minority and the majority elements in this country or within our respective regions in

or policemen to reach the very man at the bottom of the ladder. This is very important.

It is also true that Members have spoken having regard to the fact that elections are pending and they may not wish to offend any-

### House of Representatives Debates

1185

[Service Conditions

31 MARCH 1964

of Police Officers]

1186

pungent and forthright and it should have added a little more criticism to the conduct of the Federal Government towards the Police Force than what he has done. He has praised the Federal Government all along the line. I would not have praised the Federal Government for everything they have done for the Police. I feel that they have not done enough at all. They should have gone much further. I think all men of good conscience will agree with me that much of the peace and stability in this country rest on the Police.

**An hon. Member :** They are over-worked.

**Mr Briggs :** I remember some time ago, during a serious press controversy, that was about 1948, and those of us in politics then would remember that this country was in a terrific ferment. It was between two major political parties and would have resulted almost in a tribal fight. In the midst of that our Governor, Sir John Macpherson, appealed to the people of Nigeria, to the journalists: "You can cut your throats, if you like; you can quarrel, if you like; but please keep away politics from the Police and the Judiciary." That was a brave statement and it was accepted in every part of the country.

**An hon. Member :** We remember.

**Mr Briggs :** We have just passed through an unprecedented Federal election. At that time we still had the British and a British Governor at the head of affairs to act as a referee then. A few months from now we shall enter another Federal election, and at that time we will not be having the British Government as our referee: we will be our own referee. As partisans and as referees in the Federal election then we require an outside force, a sort of independent force which will hold the balance between the two sections and I think the choice falls squarely on the Police Force. So anything that can be done to increase the impartiality and also the goodwill to the satisfaction of the Police, should be done. I think any money spent on the Police is money well spent. It should not require much talking to support this Motion.

That brings me to the question of political Police. I still feel, in spite of what I have said, that there is a lot of politics in our Police. There are quite a lot of people in the Police

who still feel that because they belong to a particular Region or tribe, therefore the dominant political party of that Region must receive their support. This is true. It is true in every Region. If you go to the North, East or West the same thing happens. We cannot pretend that it is otherwise, and I am appealing to the Federal Government to do everything in their power, either by way of increasing allowances or by way of better instruction to reorientate the Police so that they may feel that their duty is to hold the balance by their absolute impartiality and to see that they are not committed to any political party at all. That is our only salvation.

This brings me also to the question of promotion in the Police Force. I think the minority are neglected very greatly. It is very bad. An hon. Member has just cited an instance, a very, very rare instance, of Mr Edet. The case of Mr Edet is an isolated one. He is a class by himself. If you go through the Police Force you will count on the fingers of one hand the number of people from the minority areas who are promoted to the Assistant Superintendent of Police grade. How many people in the minority area are promoted to the Superintendent of Police grade. How many people in the minority group have been promoted to the S.P. grade. None.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East) :** I do not know if the hon. Member is aware of the fact that a good many policemen are being deprived of their merited positions because they belong to some majority tribes and that special preference is given to the so-called minority group.

**Mr Briggs :** That is not true at all. The Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivu*) belongs to a majority tribe and he knows perfectly well what is going on. I challenge him to quote one instance where a member of majority tribe in the Police Force has been deprived of his promotion to make way for someone from the minority tribe.

**Mr Akwivu :** The challenge is accepted and whether outside this House, in Lagos or in Port Harcourt where my hon. Friend lives with me, I will show him abundant evidence.



[MR MORDI]

the party in power always had the support of the police. But during the Mid-West elections there was no Government in power.

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order ! I think it is better in this House if we allow the hon. Member to contradict himself.

**Mr Obi** : The Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) knows that he is not speaking to children. We all knew of all that happened in the Mid-West. I know what I am saying.

In 1960, some people went out to hold a political meeting in my constituency and without provocation they were attacked. Somebody was shot and this matter was left in the hands of the Police. Because the people involved in the incident belonged to the party for which the police had sympathy, the case never saw the light of day. This is the type of thing we would not like to see happening in this country.

I would like to emphasize the fact that while we agree that the Police are working very hard, we must also agree that there is a lot of partiality in the Force. That is what I am trying to establish.

Take the case of Lagos Police for example. The Police in Lagos work very hard. We appreciate the efforts they put in in order to ensure peace in this territory. If the Police in the rural areas work half as much as those in Lagos nobody would have any cause to complain. We must all agree that this is true.

Somebody referred to the performances of our police in the Congo. I believe that our police are doing well there because of the better condition of service. Most of our policemen would like to go to the Congo to enjoy the good conditions of service that obtain there. A policeman enjoys a better condition of service when serving in the Congo than when serving here at home and that is one of the reasons why we are stressing that something should be done to encourage the policemen.

A Member has already referred to the problem of housing our policemen. I think that it will pay the Government to build their own Police Quarters instead of hiring quarters for the police. For instance, a Police Post was established in my constituency in Agenebode over three years ago and up till now, nothing has been done to put up a permanent quarters for the police there. I am therefore appealing to the Minister in charge of Police to see that something is done about this.

I would now like to make reference to promotion in the Force. I agree entirely with those hon. Members who say that promotion in the Force is not based on merit. People are promoted because they have relatives who are senior members of the Force or because they have people who are in a position of influence. This should not be the case, because it will not encourage people to work hard.

I feel that promotion should be made purely on merit and efficiency. If we allow this type of favouritism to continue, it will discourage others who are working very hard. Nepotism and the use of 'longleg', as people put it, in the Force should be avoided.

Also, as the Mover of the Motion has said, this Parliament is the only place where the police can boast of having people who can speak for them. They have no trade unions and there is no way by which they can organise themselves in order to air their views. We hope that when the reports of the Morgan Wages Commission are out, with the kind heartedness of the Prime Minister, something will be done, as in the terms of this Motion, and that the Police will be given some increase in their wages and their conditions of service will be improved generally. This will help to remove most of the anomalies in the Force.

I appeal to those concerned to see to it that Police in the rural areas do as much work as the Police in Lagos because those in the rural areas do not work as hard as those in Lagos. The police in the rural areas should borrow a leaf from those in Lagos.

I beg to support.

**The Prime Minister** : It is very generous of you, Mr Speaker, to have allowed the debate on this Motion to go as long as it has gone so far. I think the Motion is strictly designed to congratulate the Government and to show appreciation of what the Government has done in connection with the Police Force.

First of all, I would like to thank the House and especially the Mover of the Motion, for appreciating the excellent work which the Nigeria Police are doing. Nearly all the members of the Force work about twenty-four hours a day, and I have no doubt that it will be a great source of encouragement for them to know that Members in this honourable House do appreciate what they are doing.

House of Representatives Debates

1193

[Service Conditions

31 MARCH 1964

of Police Officers]

1194

Members have given me encouragement too, in knowing that whenever I come to the House I could have the ready support of all the Members of the House.

The Mover of the Motion has raised a number of points in his Motion. He first of all spoke of the lack of sufficient accommodation for the members of the Force in different parts of the Federation. Now, it will pay us more and I think that it will be better for the morale of the Police if we provide them with quarters in all stations.

Unfortunately, as hon. Members know, our resources are limited and our needs are not only confined to the Police Force but they extend to all sorts of things. The money available to us is not sufficient to the extent of our providing every policeman with a house. But it is the intention that every policeman will be provided with a house in course of time. We are doing what we can to provide barracks for them in the big towns and also in some small stations.

I think the Mover and the Seconder of the Motion both spoke of the Police Force having no place where they can lodge their complaints. I thought they seemed to suggest that the Police should have their conditions of service improved by the formation of what the Mover called 'Police Advisory Council', and that the Council should be composed of policemen entirely and that this should be purely an Advisory Council.

This Council will sit and decide how much the Police should be paid, what kind of house they should live in, how many hours they will work a day—but they are purely advisory—and then, they will put their recommendations to the Police Service Commission or to the Police Council.

Now, I do not think such a Council will be of any use at all. It would be much better to have a proper trade union rather than have such a Council. Police and our disciplined Force however are not allowed to organise themselves into a trade union.

Then, the Mover also spoke of public processions as if it were the responsibility of the Nigeria Police to impose restrictions on them. The Police control them, they advise whether they should be imposed or not, but it is the

Authority, the Government or the Local Government, that has the ultimate responsibility.

The Seconder of the Motion, the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) suggested that in order to maintain law and order policemen should be used as locomotive drivers. That means that when there is a strike of the locomotive drivers policemen should be made to drive trains. I do not think this is the type of work for the police. He also made a point about doctors but he did not suggest that policemen should take over from doctors whenever they go on strike. I think their duty is to maintain law and order.

Some hon. Members suggested too that there is discrimination in the promotion of the members of the Force. A Member, I think it was the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*), also said that the Prime Minister is responsible for promotion in the Force. I have nothing to do with the promotion in the Nigeria Police Force, and nobody, other than the Police Service Commission, the Superior Police Officers and, in certain cases the Inspector-General of Police, has anything whatsoever to do with the promotion of the Police. I am not aware of any discrimination, but from the speeches of the Members for Afenmai East and Degema (*Messrs Obi and Briggs*) there appears to be suggestions of discrimination.

I would like to say at this moment that it will be better if we forget about tribal affairs in this House. It is most unfortunate that we crack jokes about tribalism in this House, but I am afraid, people outside magnify them quite a lot, especially outside Nigeria.

There is no harm in tribalism provided it will end in mere jokes between the different groups. If one goes to Britain one finds that there is tribalism between the Scots and the English. There is tribalism also in Canada and in all sorts of places. But here, we carry ourselves rather too far, and instead of trying to speak about it in a better way which will make for greater unity and better understanding we use the term to make it very difficult for the groups outside to work together. Take, for example, what the Member for Kaga Marghi (*Shettima Ali Monguno*) said in his speech.

## [THE PRIME MINISTER]

He said that when we talk in this Parliament we generate a lot of tribal ill-feelings, but that if you go outside to the ordinary men, they work happily together, and they are very happy. He wondered why we make things difficult for them. He asked why we do not help them instead of making life more difficult for them.

I hope, Mr Speaker, we should begin to think in terms of ourselves belonging to one family and belonging to one country, although, of course, we have our tribal groups. This does not matter.

The Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) made certain remarks about the Police. He said that in the Police Force there was quota in promotion. I have no idea of having any quota for promotions in the Police Force. Members of the Force are promoted because of their efficiency, because of their devotion to duty and the rest of it.

The Member for Degema also spoke of politics being rampant in the Nigeria Police Force. Well, I am not aware of it. Whenever there is an election, either Regional or Federal, political parties complain against the Police taking sides. When they win, they keep quiet. Whenever they lose, they complain. So, you find the same political party accusing the Police Force of taking sides in a Regional election, but praising them for being impartial in a Federal election. This is very difficult. I think the whole thing is that the Police are impartial and those who do not have things their way may become rather annoyed. I think the Nigeria Police Force is really performing its duty without regard to any political party.

It is true that last year I informed the House that we made certain changes in the conditions of service of the Nigeria Police and also in the pay of the members of the Force. That affected mostly the superior officers in the Force. From the speeches I have heard in this House, Members will be pleased to know that the question of the salaries of the rank and file and their conditions of service are under consideration now. Of course, even the formal consideration of the conditions and pay of the superior officers which was carried out last year has something to do with the junior officers because it enhanced the prospects of their promotions.

One of the speakers has said that this is a non-controversial Motion. I doubt if it is non-controversial. I just take the Motion simply on its surface interpretation and say that the Federal Government accepts the Motion.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That this House notes with appreciation the efforts of the Federal Government to improve the service conditions of the Police and urges the Government to continue in this direction.

## WIDENING OF ALL FEDERAL ROADS

**Alhaji L. Daura** (Daura East) : I rise to move—

That, in view of the great number of lives lost every year as a result of fatal motor accidents on our highways, this House calls upon the Federal Government to hold consultations with the Regional Governments on the possibility of widening and improving all roads in the country to carry double stream traffic.

This is a very important Motion. It is non-controversial and deserves the support of all Members. As it is non-controversial, I am not going to speak at length on it.

The importance of roads in any country, and especially in a developing country like ours, can never be over-emphasised. Roads are the backbone and the life-blood of any country. A country with no proper road transport is like a person suffering from paralysis. Such a person has no control over his limb.

Nigeria is always accused of conservatism. Whether we are conservative or not, we must, at least, be able to adapt ourselves to the quick changing environment of our time if we are to survive, or if we are to achieve our purpose. If this allegation is true, time shall prove it.

In this regard, I have this observation to make. Colonial mentality is still rampant in us. This is indicated by the fact that we adhere so rigidly to the British colonial economic policy as a legacy, which in itself means nothing. The Government of the Federation seems to stick rigidly to the idea of having single line traffic—a thing which we cannot afford at this stage of our development.

Nigerian roads, when compared with the roads of other countries, are of a lower standard. For instance, if we compare our roads with the roads of say, Ghana, we would find that our roads are much inferior. The Minister of Works and Surveys saw it for himself when he arrived at the Nigeria-Niger border that our roads are inferior. He saw that all roads in the Niger Republic are constructed to accommodate double lane traffic, while in Nigeria, apart from the surfacing being inferior in quality, the roads are of the usual single traffic lane.

This is an age of speed and the most common way of travelling in this country is by road. It is unfortunate that most of these roads have not been improved with all our developments. We oftentimes hear of new discoveries and inventions in regard to aeroplanes and motor cars. These new inventions have a purpose, which is to give more speed, more comfort and, above all, security to travellers. But in this country, we do not seem to be moving with the times. For, instead of building our roads to accommodate double lane traffic so as to improve our traffic situation, we continue to construct our roads to the single line standard. It is a fact that the vehicles have more than doubled their number and size within the last decade, but it is unfortunate that our roads have not improved.

The Six-Year Development Plan cannot succeed without having good roads for, in course of time, the badly built roads will be called upon to accommodate more than their capacities and in the end there will be failure.

It is an indisputable fact that more than ninety *per cent* of our road accidents in this country occur at the bridges. The bridges are very narrow and in some cases less than ten feet in width. If one thinks of the size of the vehicles which pass over these bridges night and day one is sure to foresee what is likely to happen. In my opinion, it is not enough for the authorities to put "Narrow Bridge" sign-posts at the approaches to these bridges. What is required, and indeed what is necessary, is for these bridges to be widened. Our bridges constitute great danger to every traveller in this country.

This brings me to the burning question of supplementing the railway bridge at Jebba with a motor bridge. It is a well known fact

that all lorries coming from the North and passing through Jebba experience great difficulties on the Jebba bridge. Undue delay is caused both in the delivery of produce, such as cotton and groundnuts, to the ports for shipment to all parts of the world and in the delivery of imports to the far North. This undue delay means loss of time and money. In order to keep pace with our Development Plan, the transportation of raw materials to the factories and the distribution of manufactured goods to the outstations, it is imperative to have a second bridge at Jebba.

I believe that all well-meaning Members of this honourable House who have the interest of the country at heart will readily agree with all that I have said. I therefore call on the Federal Government to hold consultation with the Regional Governments so as to improve our roads throughout the country. This, no doubt, will bring about increased efficiency in our transport system and will also reduce to the minimum the number of road accidents.

I beg to move.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West):** I rise to second this rather simple and straightforward Motion. In doing so, I wish to recall that two years ago the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House made a very loud noise about the infra-structure of development of a nation, and I want to say here that even to a layman, to the average knowledgeable layman, the importance of good roads to economic development, social development and even to political development cannot be over-emphasised. As long ago as 1776—nearly two hundred years ago—Adam Smith, in "The Wealth of Nations" declared, and with your permission, Sir, I quote :

*"Good roads, canals and navigable rivers, by diminishing the expense of carriage, put the remote parts of the country nearly on a level with those in the neighbourhood of a town; they are on that account the greatest of all improvements."*

We all know that factors of production, whether they be labour, land or capital, or even management, can only be brought about when there is a cheap, steady and efficient means of locomotion, of travelling from one part of the country to another.

[DR NZERIBE]

Certain criteria are recognised by economists and businessmen in judging the efficiency of a network of roads. The first criterion is that of safety and reliability. The questions normally asked are, to what extent may persons and goods move from one point on the network of roads to another without hazard of injury or loss? What degree of certainty is there that a journey well begun will be well ended? Is the road or the means of transportation open all the year round? Is it predictable or is it dependent on the whims and caprices of the weather?

We come to the criterion of cost. How does the cost of transport affect the value of goods at their destination? In China, for example, before the revolution, the cost of goods was doubled after 40 miles of travel, which means for example, that goods produced in rural areas could not sell even though the comparative advantage of farmers was greater in production of goods and raw materials than those in the city, the result being that there was always a sort of glut and famine—glut in the areas of production and famine in the areas of consumption, and farmers could not move.

We have criteria of speed and accuracy. This is particularly true of perishables, like yams in this country, vegetables, fresh fish and all those goods which must be moved from their place of production to their place of consumption. To what extent are the markets in the area linked together, not only locally or nationally but also internationally? If markets are isolated from one another, the transport system of that nation is to be condemned because you have prince-and-pauper economy existing at the same time. These are most true of Nigerian conditions to-day.

In the East of Nigeria, for example in Abakaliki area, you have yams selling for about 3s per piece, whereas about 40 miles away from the place of production the same piece of yam sells for about 4s or 5s. So, you have prince-and-pauper economy—prince in the area of production and pauper in the area of consumption or *vice versa*.

Time is money and one of the criteria for a rapid economic development, particularly in a growing nation, is that businessmen must move from the area of demand to the area of

supply. If a passenger travelling from Kano to Lagos or from Lagos to Port Harcourt, or *vice versa*, has to wait indefinitely for a lorry or a train or a ship to arrive, then the economy is bound to be stagnated because he cannot move rapidly to meet the exigencies of his business.

Coming home to the Nigerian scene, you will observe that we have three categories of roads. First, the so-called Trunk 'A' roads built and maintained by the Federal Government of Nigeria; second, the Trunk 'B' roads built and maintained by the Regional Governments, sometimes in coalition with the Local Council Authorities; and, third, you have some private roads which may have no category.

In all fairness to the Government of the Federation and the Regional Governments, we have done very well during the past ten years or, say, since power got into the hands of Nigerian Leaders who have, on the whole, performed wonderfully well. A certain measure of credit should go to our Governments both at the local level and also at the regional and international levels, and to the Ministry in charge of roads.

But if you compare the road system of Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Gambia—the ex-British colonial territories—with the road system of the ex-French and Belgian or Dutch colonies, you will find a very remarkable difference. This is one of the points where the British Government really failed because the British roads were more or less based on military considerations to enable commerce—their own brand of commerce—to thrive, and to enable political actions to be taken, particularly in cases of riot or in cases of threat to peace and tranquillity.

But apart from this, the emphasis was rather over-laid on spread of network or on efficiency in the principal arteries of the network. Most of the roads in Nigeria are political roads; even now the legacy continues. You see excellent roads leading to the house of the Prime Minister, the Premier of a Region, the Minister of Communications, the Minister of Works, the Chairman of a Local Council, the Chief Whip, an Oba or an Emir, and not to a layman. There is a very well marked discrimination against the rural areas. The Trunk 'B' roads

are, by and large, concentrated in commercial places only but 99 *per cent* of the rural areas in this country which produce the raw materials and food are discriminated against, because roads serving these areas in the hinterland are, by and large, Local Council or County Council roads. This is where the emphasis is being mislaid.

If you watch carefully, you will find that many of the Trunk 'B' roads particularly, and the Trunk 'A' roads, are idle, that is compared with the traffic going on in the rural areas. The value of food and raw materials carried by the small roads which are relegated to the background in the rural areas is greater compared with some of the "prestige" roads—roads built to enhance the prestige of political leaders—so that in 35 to 40 *per cent* of transport in Nigeria, carriage of foods and raw materials and also goods from the ports and railway terminals into the hinterland, is done by road.

At the same time, the roads have not received that emphasis which they deserve. The various roads should be co-ordinated so that roads do not end in blind alleys but go from commercial centre to commercial centre—roads built mainly on economic consideration and not for political or prestige ends.

The annual increase in the demand for the services of roads, according to the census conducted by the P.W.D., is very close to 25 *per cent*—that is the increase on the need for the services of the major roads—and this can be seen also by taking a look at the statistics published by the Ministry of Commerce. In 1938 road vehicles registered in Nigeria were close to 1,500, and just last year (1963) they were very close to about 27,000 vehicles registered to ply on Nigerian roads. The increase is mounting day by day, particularly with the income *per capita* increasing, the hire-purchase arrangements made by the companies, and with more and more Nigerians getting into the Senior Service grade and needing cars for their work and services. If you get to Lagos for example, particularly in the morning hours from seven to eight and in the afternoon from two to half-past two and also in the evening from four to half-past four, you will see a tremendous array of cyclists struggling for their lives. They pack themselves like sardines. Practically everybody is holding his

own life in his mouth. Every step you take on a Nigerian road under the present circumstances is a risky venture.

Last year, on the 6th of April, the Member for Awka Central (*Mr Muojeke*) and my humble self tabled a Motion on the Floor of this House praying Government to do all it could to reduce road accidents. One of the causes of the ever-increasing number of casualties on our roads is the narrowness, the roughness, and the rough gradients of the Nigerian roads. A cyclist, a trailer truck, a motor-cyclist, a pedestrian, a woman carrying a baby on her back and a bundle of firewood on her head—all are struggling on the same path. Even here in Lagos, the *Omolanke* man, that is the truck pusher, the Minister going to work, the civil servant going to his office—all are struggling on the same path, the same lane.

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South):** On a point of information, there are no more *Omolanke* in Lagos. They may be found somewhere else in Nigeria. I do not want the hon. Member to deceive this House. *Omolankes* can be found in Mushin and Agege. But they are no more in the City of Lagos.

**Dr Nzeribe:** If the Member for Ijebu South and a professional clown will listen, he will realise that we are not talking about *Alao* or *Shakey-Shakey*. We are discussing a Motion which is very important to the people of this country.

So, it is a very ugly sight to reckon the number of man-hours lost every day in rubbing shoulders even within the four walls of the Federal Territory of Lagos, not to talk of the rural areas.

We may go back to what was said recently. It is said that during the past three years lives of great men in this country have been lost. During the last Mid-West campaign meetings even a Senator lost his life. Lives of great men have been lost in this country simply because the roads are bad. They are narrow—winding lanes, cow lanes, the roads used by our forefathers before the advent of British powers in this country. They simply cleared the roads and poured coal-tar on them. They are the type of roads seen in Boston during the days of the Pilgrim Fathers—cow lanes; these rugged, unpredictable and very uncomfortable roads all over.

[DR NZERIBE]

From Onitsha to Owerri, and this happens to go through my own constituency, every time you get into your car and drive along the road you are between the upper and the lower jaws of death. And this is true of the road from Asaba to Lagos, even though we may say that the Minister of Works is doing very well now to see that the long-expected Benin-Shagamu road is now about to be completed.

The Member for Maska (*Alhaji Daura*) in moving this Motion had also said that what was true of the roads was also true of the bridges. The bridges should be of double lanes. They are death traps at the moment. Most of the bridges are ordinary concrete reinforcement. There are no iron girders. And you ought to travel a distance of about forty miles from Benin on the way to Lagos to see what I am now talking about. There are seven winding bridges which seem to be going around the world in a topsy-turvy manner. And if you travel at night, you will confess the truth of your life.

These roads are not worthy of independent Nigeria, nor of self-governing and Republican Nigeria. The Minister of Works should take serious note of this.

I feel that mention should be made of the wear and tear of the vehicles, particularly in the rural areas. A test conducted recently in America indicates that the wear and tear of a vehicle is 30 per cent more on a rough road than on a good road. And you will remember that this country grows on the back of rural areas. Most of our vehicles in this country ply the roads in the rural areas because the things those vehicles carry are actually produced in the rural areas. We who live in the rural areas change our cars once every two or three years, whereas those who live in Lagos here, in Port Harcourt, Enugu, Kaduna, can use one car and enjoy its services for seven to eight years or more. When you hear this, you will realise the magnitude and the gravity of conditions under which we live. The Federal Government knowingly or unknowingly is discriminating against 95 per cent of the people of this country, and that is the people who live in the rural areas.

Most of our roads were designed at a time when the capacity of the biggest vehicle was about three or four tons. But at the present time the roads should be built in such a way

that they can carry a load or a capacity of no less than twenty-five tons, and that is twelve units of British standard. This also applies to bridges at the present time.

If you go to the former French territories or the former Belgian territories you will find that the best roads, the high ways, the trunk 'A' roads, are made to carry load to the capacity of at least twenty-five tons that is 12 B.S., (British Standard).

So, I will recommend seriously that, firstly, the hon. Minister in charge of roads should realise that I am saying this in all candour and that I am not at all casting aspersion on his efficiency as a Minister in charge of roads. I feel that it is not the normal thing for the building of roads to be under the Ministry of Works whereas the Ministry of Transport is responsible for Aviation, for Water Transport, and for all other kinds of transport. The construction and maintenance of roads should be taken away from the Ministry of Works and put under the Ministry of Transport. This Ministry is in charge of co-ordination and integration of various aspects of travelling in Nigeria. There is no where in the world where roads are insulated from other means of transport.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** : I rise on a point of order. The point of order is that the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) is being irrelevant. He is urging the Government to change the port-folio of a Minister to that of another Minister. If he wants to find a job for the Minister of Transport, whose charge for Aviation has been taken away, he can do that in a more refined manner.

**Dr Nzeribe** : The hon. Member is bred in confusion. And he thinks that this is Western Nigeria where they cause confusion from time to time.

Secondly, I want to stress the point that the system of grouping of roads into categories 'A' and 'B' should be abolished. Roads are roads everywhere.

If the Federal Government, for example, is efficient and the Regional Government is inefficient, and the two roads—one belonging to the Federal Government and the other belonging to the Regional Government—come to meet somewhere, what is the point in the efficiency of the former Government ?

Therefore, all roads in Nigeria should be co-ordinated and still be left in the hands of the Regional Governments, or better still, co-ordinated and supervised and maintained by the Federal Government in a unilateral action.

I strongly suggest that the major highways—the heavy traffic arteries in Nigeria—for example, Lagos-Abeokuta-Ibadan road, Ibadan-Oyo road, Ibadan-Ife-Akure road, Ibadan-Ijebu Ode-Benin road, Benin-Sapele road, Benin-Onitsha road, Enugu-Abakaliki, Enugu-Yola roads, Onitsha-Owerri-Port Harcourt-Aba-Uyo road, Ikom-Calabar road, Jos-Bauchi Potiskum road, Gusau-Sokoto road, Kano-Katsina road, Lagos-Kano road, Jos-Maiduguri-Fort Lamy road, Bamenda-Yola road and certain roads in Lagos—I strongly suggest that, because these roads carry about five hundred to six hundred vehicles every day, they should be widened to no less than twenty-two or twenty-four feet, and should be made double lane with bicycle and pedestrian tracks.

These roads are not only of national importance, but also of international importance. They supplement the railway system of this country. These roads should, therefore, be recognised as the most important roads in Nigeria.

Finally, I strongly suggest that research into the building and construction of roads be carried out on a more elaborate scale, and that the Ministry of Works and Surveys or whichever Ministry is responsible for the maintenance of roads, should exchange ideas with countries bordering around Nigeria, like Ghana and the ex-French territories like Congo, because there is a wealth of information in these areas about road building and road construction which are not yet made available to Nigeria.

I suggest finally that road works should be given more on contract. The present Public Works Department is merely wasting the time and energy of the Federal Government. This point may be unpalatable, but it is true. Most of the time and the money spent by the Public Works Department is wasted. It is, in fact, a Public Waste Department.

If the Government will try, as happens in England or in America or in France or in any other developed nations of the world, to hand over road maintenance and road building on

contracts, much money will be saved, much waste will be saved and much inefficiency will be rectified.

I beg to second.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys** (Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): Both the Mover and the Seconder of the Motion have said that this is a simple Motion, but I am surprised at the way they have argued their case. They have brought all sorts of complications into it.

I would start with the Mover of the Motion. The Government has no difficulty in accepting the Motion because all we are asked to do is to examine the possibility of consulting the Regional Governments and all authorities in Nigeria with a view to widening the roads and bridges in Nigeria.

One thing gives me encouragement—the Mover of the Motion himself is directly concerned with road construction and maintenance. He is the local Councillor in charge of works in his Native Authority. I, therefore, expect him to know better than saying all roads in Nigeria must be widened. That means roads maintained by the Federal Government, roads maintained by the Regional Governments and roads maintained by every local Government Authority. Where can we find the money? It is just impossible.

If the Motion confines itself to the major roads, I can understand it better, but since we are asked to examine the possibility of widening all roads and bridges, we shall certainly examine the possibility, and I hope the hon. Mover of the Motion will be one of those who will examine the possibility of widening the roads in Nigeria. If we on the Federal Government level, and those on the Regional Government level examine the possibility of widening Nigerian roads, I hope he will, on the local Government level, also examine the possibility of widening the roads within the jurisdiction of Katsina Native Authority.

**Alhaji L. Daura** (Daura East): When that comes to be, the hon. Minister will find me only too ready to widen the roads within my jurisdiction.

**Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada**: Speaking more seriously, it is really a very good thing if we can widen our roads and our



[ALHAJI INUWA WADA]

bridges. Members will remember when the President addressed this House, he said that it was the policy of the Federal Government to construct all our roads and all our bridges to a wider and stronger specification. This we mean to pursue, although we cannot overnight reconstruct all our roads and bridges to the width required by Members.

I want to remind Members of one thing I have always said. I said, when I was replying to an earlier Motion, that I could not accept that Nigerian roads are inferior to roads in other parts of all Africa. Our roads, I still maintained, are the best roads in the whole continent of Africa.

**Several hon. Members :** No, no, no.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) :** The hon. Minister is misleading the House by giving wrong information. In terms of the extent to which roads are spread all over the country, Nigeria is the best in the continent of Africa; that is, when we consider that we have one mile of road per seventy-seven square miles of this country. But in terms of efficiency—

**The Deputy Speaker :** I think the Minister is entitled to inform us about this and not the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*).

**Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada :** I will explain why I said that our roads are the best in the whole of Africa. We have the largest mileage of paved roads in Africa. We also have the biggest network of roads in Africa.

What the hon. Mover of the Motion is saying I know. The Mover of the Motion mentioned a time when I was on tour and I inspected with him a piece of Federal road that joined another road. The road he was talking about was the only road in that particular territory which was tarred. The width of that road was not better than our roads, the strength of that road was not even better than our roads.

The Mover of the Motion himself being an engineering assistant, knows roads specification, *et cetera*. The Seconder, not being an engineer was talking of gross weights, *et cetera*. But, Sir, all our roads in Nigeria, without imputing any motive, are certainly not inferior to the other roads found in our neighbouring territories. The Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) was saying—

**Alhaji L. Daura :** I believe the Minister did not go far into the Niger Republic to see for himself—

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order ! That is certainly something like the one on which I have ruled against the Member for Orlu West. It is a point of information.

**Dr Nzeribe :** If the Minister still persists that our roads system is the most efficient, let him tell this House how many miles of road maintained by the Federal Government runs through Orlu Division.

**The Deputy Speaker :** That is an invitation for information.

**Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada :** I grant to hon. Members that our roads in Nigeria are not better than the roads they are talking about. Where is their sense of patriotism ? What I want to say now is that the road from Lagos to Kano for example which takes a distance of a minimum of 800 miles, are being reconstructed. I challenge the two hon. Members to mention any country in West Africa which has a distance of 800 miles of paved road. The road from Lagos, through Ibadan, Benin, Asaba, Onitsha, Aba to Port Harcourt is paved all the way.

**Mr A. F. Odulana :** I can bear witness to that.

**Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada :** This road is paved all the way. The bridges on that road are now being reconstructed and the road is being rehabilitated. I want hon. Members to know that. However, I do not want them to take me away from my point. I will come back to the main subject of the Motion and that is that the Federal Government, in consultation with the Regional Governments and other Government Authorities in Nigeria should get together to examine the possibility of widening the roads and bridges in the Republic.

As I said earlier, the Motion is accepted but I want to warn Members that the acceptance of the Motion does not mean that it is going to be implemented within a very short time. Road construction is a very costly affair. Bridge construction is also another costly affair. It is, at any rate, the policy of the Federal Government, and I also know it

is the policy of the Regional Governments, to construct all our roads to the appropriate capacity to carry the traffic using them. So, hon. Members must bear with us if some of the roads as they say, are rough and if some of the roads are not wide enough. But, in due course—how long I am not prepared to tell you—our roads will be widened and they will be strong enough to carry all the traffic using them.

I have just one last point to make before I resume my seat. The Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) was talking about research. I want to assure him that the Federal Government and Regional Governments have very good road research laboratories. We have soil laboratories and it is also a fact that periodical meetings are always being held between our engineers and the engineers concerned with research and ideas are being exchanged. His other point about exchanging ideas with the various countries in Africa is also a part of C.C.T.A. There was a time when I attended a meeting on transport generally in Monrovia, and we all agreed there to exchange ideas on our techniques of road and bridge building, *et cetera*.

Before I sit down, I want to assure Members that when I challenged them on the question of Nigerian roads being inferior, I did not mean any slight on their character or the authenticity of what they say, but I want to give them an invitation to come to my office where I will show them facts and figures, the mileage of roads paved in Nigeria and the mileage of roads paved in the other countries which they are talking about, and the comparative strength of our roads and bridges.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I once more say that the Government accepts the Motion.

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (Ibarapa) : I rise to support this Motion mostly because of the great loss to this country by way of lives and by way of property and time. Within this last year, because of the bad roads, we have lost very big people in this country. I can mention Senator Udoh, the late Mr Fagunwa—

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South) : Since the Minister has accepted the Motion, there is no need talking any more about it.

**The Deputy Speaker** : I think hon. Members should mind their own business.

**Mr Gbolagunte** : I was saying that great lives have been lost in this country during the past year and I mentioned Fagunwa, Senator Udoh, Segun Awolowo and others. Many Members here missed death just by sheer luck. I think the Seconder of this Motion was one of them. During the last floods—

**Dr Nzeribe** : This is the second time that Members have accused me. The Member for Ibarapa (*Mr Gbolagunte*) is accusing me of escaping death by the breadth of my hair. I did not do that. Please protect me, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker** : I think the hon. Member can be rest assured he is protected.

**Mr Gbolagunte** : During the last year, a lot of property has been lost because of our roads. During the floods many lorries were kept in Ikorodu and the goods they were carrying down to Lagos were spoilt. I remember buying a chicken for 1s-3d. If the roads were good I think the floods would not have affected the bridges.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : On a point of order, I like to say that the fact that floods infested the inland towns like Ibadan shows the curse that is coming from above on the Western Region !

**Mr Gbolagunte** : The number of vehicles plying the roads in Nigeria is so large that the Minister should be able to agree so readily that he is going to consider the widening of our roads. But we find that the Federal Government is now spending money on widening of—

*Whereupon the Member for Hadejia North (Alahaji Muhammadu Gauyarma) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.*

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

*Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.*

**Resolved** : That, in view of the great number of lives lost every year as a result of fatal motor accidents on our highways, this House calls upon the Federal Government to hold consultations with the Regional Governments on the possibility of widening and improving all roads in the country to carry double stream traffic.

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3.00 p.m.*

RETIRING AGE OF CIVIL SERVANTS

**Mr V. A. Emenogha** (Onitsha North): I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper—

That, in view of the fact that at the age of 55 years a man is at his prime and has gained useful experience, this House calls on the Federal Government to raise the retiring age of civil servants to 65 years and so bring it in line with what obtains in other progressive countries.

The raising of the retiring age of workers in this country is necessary and would be one of the most progressive acts of this Government. This case should be viewed from two points. Firstly, it would help the development of this nation and secondly, it would be in the best interest of the workers of this country. I am sure if the retiring age is raised, it would be a lasting glory to the Government of Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.

The retiring age of 55 years should now be considered an obsolete creation of our erst-while colonial masters who were forced by climate to leave the country early for continued service in their own country. This is also, only justifiable when medical aids for the protection of their lives were most inadequate and they had to leave the country early. At that time, they considered themselves more important than the Nigerians who they employed only to help them in their duties.

A man at 55 is full of vim, and is only about half way up the flight of the normal span of life.

If experience could be placed into visible dimensional compartments, it would be seen that much of useful, mellow experience, is thrown into the waste corner by asking civil servants to retire at 55. The country does not get full value for the money expended for the education and training of the worker, and it suffers the loss of the full advantages of such education and training.

It is for this consideration that men who have retired, are sometimes asked to come back to work on contract and, only the lucky few are employed. If they are handicapped by age, they will not be asked to come back to work?

At 55, a man's financial commitments and responsibilities, for example, the education of his children, become multiplied and heavy.

On the average a man goes to school at the age of 6. He finishes his primary school education at about the age of 14 and enters a secondary school. He finishes his secondary school education at about the age of 19, and does two years post secondary school studies. He then enters a University or a higher training institution at about the age of 21. On the average his higher education takes about 4 years so that he begins work at about the age of 25 or 26. He gets married after working for three years and would perhaps have his first child at the age of 30.

It takes his first child about 25 years to become as educationally qualified as his father and to begin work. As the child gains in age, so does his father who by the time the child is 25 would be 54 years old, one year short of the present retiring age.

Within the 25 years of the first child's development, about 8 or more children are born if the married couple are healthy and fecund.

The training of these children plus other financial commitments and the date of retirement from work stare the father in the face. The thought about all these causes him such worries that make him unhappy, make him have high blood pressure or have serious temptations to practise corruption and fraud.

The case of the junior officer is still worse. Hon. Members should not be dismayed by what I say now, for we know that there are some people who are over 55 years of age and are still working as people under 55 years of age.

Now that we have registration of births it would be noticed that a man at 55 looks very young and is full of strength. The argument is sometimes adduced that men should retire at 55 to give room to younger people. This argument is not only specious but most fallacious.

Throwing out of work able-bodied men in their prime, only increases the number of unemployed some of whom are capable of doing all sorts of havoc in the country, in our local government councils and in our politics.

In any case people do not retire at 55 in other progressive countries. Retirement age is not fixed at 55 in any other country of the Commonwealth. People in these other countries retire beyond the age of 55.

**An hon. Member :** Will the hon. Gentleman mention one of such countries where the retirement age is beyond 55.

**Mr Emenogha :** All countries, if the hon. Member knows them, that belong to the Commonwealth, Britain for example.

It should of course be noted that there exists a class of unscrupulous and selfish civil servants who may wish to retire even before the age of 55. These, as I said, are selfish and unscrupulous people. They often find excuses to leave their jobs or leave no stone unturned to get some medical practitioner to issue them certificates declaring that they are invalids. But no sooner are they so invalidated than they embark on some money-making ventures of their own.

These types of men are more often found among the specialised, professional, technical or mechanical personnel who leave their positions, where they should be of the utmost benefit to the country, at a comparatively lower age. When we speak of unemployment we should not limit our knowledge to the Government Service alone but should consider all other establishments including private ones as well. These types of men I am referring to, after having retired on a certificate of invalidity, then start a sort of imperceptible monopoly of services. Having worked in a number of Government Departments or Corporations, they have the knowledge and respect of the men in the key posts, and equipped with the mighty mammon of iniquity-money-in hundreds and thousands of pounds, they exercise tremendous influence and apply leeches to the resources of the country. Contracts go to them and to their kith and kin. They even influence employment in the civil service. Sometimes a post remains vacant till someone of their own is available to fill it, thus indirectly and artificially causing unemployment to others. They also bring about blackmail and corruption in the service. Men of this type, and others mentally of their kind, may not like this Motion. But this honourable House should.

If two men, each having the real interest and welfare of the other at heart, travel along a difficult road which must be gone through quickly, but whereon their companionship is a *sine qua non*, it is the pace of the weaker that must dictate the speed and the time to finish the journey. The stronger and faster dashing partner must not only encourage the other but also slow down his own pace and allow more time for the other to gather his steps.

All fair-minded and considerate people must welcome this Motion because it seeks the interest and welfare of the vast majority of workers especially those in the lower and middle income groups. A man on £3,000 *per annum* may not care much about this Motion. But the vast majority of the workers who earn in the lower scales of salaries care for this Motion.

Throwing people out of work early and within their prime should not form the basis of creating work for the young. It is, to say the least, unprogressive. It is inconsiderate and nigh wickedness.

If the fat salaries would be frightening to the Government, then the proper thing to do is to re-adjust the salary scales. This has been the general outcry in the country and not pushing people out of work at the critical period of their lives, a period when they are faced with heavy financial responsibilities, a period when they can neither seek nor learn new jobs, a period when their experience in the work they do would be most beneficial to the country.

When the Pilgrim Fathers and others went to America, they did not go there with millions of pounds of money. But they found fertile soil, not more fertile than our own vast agricultural land extending from Lagos here to the far North and East. They then started plantations of tobacco and other crops, and the processing, I repeat processing, of their products. They brought wealth to America. They did employ slave labour all right, but our people can be organised, I repeat organised, to work and reap the benefits of their work by themselves. At the moment our people are not properly organised.

There should be a properly planned system of education, bold industrial, agricultural and trade planning and the expeditious execution

[MR EMEENOCHA]

of the plans, honest pursuit of peace and unity, not a situation where though there is work for the unemployed, for one reason or another because of his tribe or because of the political party to which his people belong, one refuses to give work to his fellow citizen. We should have a state where a true spirit of nationalism and patriotism should reign supreme. This is a state of affairs that will make possible the provision of work for everybody.

It is not by pushing people out of work. People are made miserable when they are pushed out of work before their time is due. They cannot properly care for their children. We know these from what we see in the villages.

It is not considerate to throw out of economic equilibrium, civil servants who, while working, live comfortably in quarters provided for them by the Government. They have some amenities while still there I agree, but after some time they retire and go back to their villages. Though he is not a civil servant but one can just think of a Minister, for example, living in luxurious quarters. Suppose he is to go back and live among his own people in simple houses. Would he not find it difficult to go back and live in such houses?

The case of the civil servant is just the same. He lives in government quarters as long as he is in the government service but it is not fair to force him to go back to his people only to live in extremely poor conditions and comparatively unhealthy surroundings. It should be remembered that to give true service to the nation these civil servants are not allowed to engage in other money-earning enterprises.

It will be proper for the Government to readjust the salary scales. While some of us receive fifty pounds or sixty pounds or even a hundred pounds every month I know of civil servants who earn most miserably and are always in debt. There is a vast majority of them and it is among them that we live.

**The Minister of Establishments** (Mr J. C. Obande) : I did not want to disturb the hon. Gentleman, the Mover of this Motion, but I am appealing to him very strongly to desist from accusing civil servants of corruption and all sorts of malpractices. After all his Motion is straightforward and I shall reply to him later on.

**Mr Emenogha** : So far in my speech I have not made mention of corruption. What I am saying is that it is not considerate ever to allow these civil servants to fall into a state in which they find it difficult to maintain their standard of living, unable to repaint their houses or mend their furniture, unable to buy good food and clothing for themselves and their families. This is the condition of many of our retired men in the villages to-day.

Retirement at the age of 55 was an innovation of convenience by our past colonial masters. Let the Government give comfort and peace to retiring workers by now increasing the retiring age to 65 years, when some of their children shall have grown up to become their family stay, and when maximum advantages of their education and training shall have been greatly made use of to the general benefit of the people.

I beg to move.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East) : I beg to second the Motion so ably moved by the Mover. I must say right away that on 2nd April, 1963, a Motion similar in many respects to this Motion was debated on the Floor of this honourable House. I was one of the speakers to that Motion. I took then the stand of a statesman and an economist looking at a developing nation. To-day, I take the stand of a politician, and all I say must be understood in that line.

It has been claimed quite rightly that there is a stock of persons who have decided to become civil servants. Even the Mover of the Motion also mentioned it. If I may digress a bit, this is perhaps one of the reasons given by some slave dealers in the past for indulging in slave trade that there were some people who had a slavish mentality and must be kept as such.

They do not belong to the group who merely want to get certain advantages from the Civil Service so as to fly out. These persons are so used to the Civil Service that they cannot stand on their own when retire. It is also claimed that these people get so used to their jobs that the presence of such persons in an office makes references easy. In the words of somebody, he called such people the "Encyclopaedia of the Office." They have a Civil Service mentality, and if one prevents them

from staying there then they will clear out from the place and in a few years get high blood pressure.

There are other arguments in favour of the retirement age which is beyond 55. The Mover of the Motion has also mentioned quite a number of them. So, I have a simple job of mentioning a few more.

Firstly, it is the practice in all civilised countries even where old age pensions exist to have full and elaborate scholarship schemes. For instance, in a country like Great Britain there is a scholarship for almost anything just for the asking, and, therefore, the people who work there work because they want to earn a living. Still they remain in the Civil Service up to the age of 65.

I personally met some of them some years ago. They looked quite happy with it, and it seemed to me that even in their houses they behaved as if they would ask for files and these things in an office. They were quite happy with the Civil Service life, and they should be kept there. But these people would have their children educated in the primary schools. Primary School is compulsory, and Secondary school also is free and compulsory. University education is not free and compulsory, but the scholarships are so many that anybody who has any gut to do something at all must be able to get one of them to pursue university education.

Even at the Institute of Education where we did the course in education all the students from England were all scholarship holders whereas those who came from Canada and other places there came on their own. Some were sent by Missions and so on, but most of those in England were there on Government scholarships. In spite of these their Civil Servants still remain for a long time in the Civil Service.

So, arguing only from the point of view of the Civil Service, it is necessary to keep them in that service in order that they should be able to maintain themselves and also maintain their children and educate those of them who grow up while they are still salary earners.

Another reason is that the expectation of life at death in Nigeria is really 90 and not 70. Now, I can explain that a little bit. Many people believe that in Nigeria the ordinary person's maximum span of life is 70. This may

be so, perhaps, in the past, and I would like to give statistics to show that even in England, with all their civilisation, it was lower in the 19th Century. So, at present we have discovered most of the causes of mortality among the people. Among those things discovered are malaria, other diseases, and, of course, among the old people, high blood pressure and all those things.

If these are rectified, considering the stamina of the people of Nigeria, they have a higher expectation of life than people in cold countries who, in spite of the state of hygiene, sanitation, and everything there have an expectation of life of 70. In order to justify some of the points I make here I will show that there have been comparisons between the United Kingdom and Nigeria taking everything into consideration.

In 1838 or between 1838 and 1854 the average length of life given by the Registrar-General for United Kingdom and Wales for thirty-year olds was 39.91 *per cent* for males and 41.85 *per cent* for females. In every place women live longer than men on the average.

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West): On a point of information, here in Nigeria men live longer than women.

**Chief Oronsaye**: That is not true. If one goes to most of our big towns one will find that in most of the big houses widows are holding them. Are they not men who have died out of those places?

In any case, figures which are well compiled do not tell tales. I have said here that these figures that I have quoted were compiled by the Registrar-General of United Kingdom and Wales.

In 1854 the figures for sixty-year olds were 13.53 *per cent* for males and 14.34 *per cent* for females.

In 1937 the figure for sixty-year olds was 14.32 for males and 16.48 for females. This brings the expectation of life at birth, because these are quoted for sixty-year olds, and therefore, regarded as figures at birth, it gives the normal person on the average seventy years in England.

But in Nigeria, the figures are very scattered. Some are to be found in the *Digest of Statistics* and some others in the *New Housing Scheme in*

[CHIEF ORONSAYE]

Lagos, but what I can gather from it all is that in Nigeria, given all the facilities that are got in England, the normal person will live for ninety years. Hereditary and environment have a lot to do in it, and it is acclaimed by the people themselves and by other countries that Nigeria are people with stamina.

Another reason is that the educational system might be changed or modified and if this happened it would produce persons who are not willing to be in the civil service.

This is a very important point because even when we go to some of these other developed countries we will find that when we mention anything about their entering into the civil service many of them frown readily at it.

About 15 to 20 years ago if somebody said that he was a clerk in the Secretariat everybody around would stand up and give him a chair to sit down. That is because he was in the Civil Service. If he said that he was a teacher he would be ignored. But things have changed now because people have learned to see that the Civil Service is not the place for somebody with a special quality. That is what is envisaged that there is a time when the demand for the civil service may not be what it is now and in such a case it would be necessary to keep what the Government has. If they are not kept, then there will be a shortage.

The reasons given, I think are already sufficient. What the Motion is asking the Government to do is to amend section 91 of Cap. 147 of the Laws of the Federation. At present it reads, with your permission, Sir, I will quote :

*"Compulsory Retirement : It shall be lawful for the Governor-General to require an officer to retire from the Public Service of the Federation at any time after he had attained the age of 45 years, subject to six months notice in writing of such requirement being given to the officer by the Governor-General"*.

That is the wording of the law that exists on the subject at present. Until that law is amended it is impossible to carry out the requirements of this Motion.

Therefore what the Motion is asking the Government to do is to amend that section of the Laws of the Federation. One important thing that is worth mentioning here is the

unreasonable insistence on higher and higher wages by civil servants. It is clear that even if the retiring age is made 65 the pensioner will expect to enjoy his pension before he dies.

Surely nobody would actually want to get pension and then just die on reaching home from office. He expects to enjoy that pension, at least, for 20 years. That being the case this insistence on higher wages is going to militate against the pension in several ways.

The important point I would like to mention is that at any time that there is a general increase in salary, money is thrown into circulation as a result of the increase of salaries demanded from the Government. If the Government has no productive resources with which to meet the increase then it has to produce paper money in order to pay. The tendency then is to get into an inflation, and if the Government is not careful it may find itself suddenly facing a "galloping inflation".

It is necessary for some of the people who are becoming impatient about this to look at what has happened in the past. I remember a few years ago if one took out three pounds, one could bring home enough foodstuff to keep a family of twelve going for two weeks, but now if one takes out three pounds one will not have enough food to keep a family of five going for one week.

**Mr U. O. Ayeni** (Afemai North West) : On a point of order, the Member for Benin East (*Chief Oronsaye*) is irrelevant because wages have nothing at all to do with the Motion.

**Mr Speaker** : I do wish that Members become acquainted with each others method of argument. The Member for Benin East (*Chief Oronsaye*) is collecting facts to support his argument.

**Chief Oronsaye** : Thank you Mr Speaker, labour leaders are worrying me. I think my hon. Friend is being pinched by the side by some labour leaders, but we must speak the truth.

What we are after is that the retiring age for civil servants should be increased to about 65 years and we want that. This retiring age, if it is granted, should enable civil servants when they finally get the pension to enjoy it. If they cannot enjoy the pension then it is useless. That is the argument.

So, I think that if labour leaders will only think of the country more and think less of themselves, they will help us in this matter. The matter is very simple and I beg to second.

**The Minister of Establishments** (Mr J. C. Obande): I beg to move the Amendment standing in my name on the Order Paper as follows:

Line 1, leave out from "That" to end of the Question and *add*—

"this House calls on the Federal Government to raise the retiring age of civil servants to bring it in line with what obtains in other progressive countries"

The Government accepts this Motion as amended. Members will recall that a few days ago my Parliamentary Secretary gave an answer in this House to an Oral Question about the age of compulsory retirement.

**Mr E. D. Akinbowale** (Ijebu North): On a point of order, I wish to point out that the question referred to by the Minister was asked by me, but it was never answered and it did not appear in the *Hansard* even under Written Answers.

**Mr I. O. Chikelu** (Udi Central): The figure 55 has not been raised to anything. The Minister should have said that it was raised to something, to make it meaningful.

**Mr Obande**: I think if the hon. Member will listen carefully he will not disturb me.

**Mr Akinbowale**: The Question was not answered.

**Mr Obande**: If the question was not answered, the hon. Member should have looked into the *Hansard*. I am sure he would have seen the answer there.

In his reply, my Parliamentary Secretary stated that the matter was receiving active consideration by the Government. Members will also recall that on the 2nd of April, last year, a Motion similar to the present one was debated in this House and that I then accepted in principle the need for the Government to consider raising the compulsory retiring age in the Federal Public Service.

I wish to say straightaway that the Government is fully aware of the strong views held by

many hon. Members on this subject and that we are considering most carefully how this matter should best be handled. It is, however, a matter on which there is a number of conflicting views and opinion and I think every hon. Member will agree that it would be irresponsible folly on our part to take any final decision until all the possible consequences have been carefully weighed.

This Government appreciates the valuable and loyal service rendered by those who have reached the normal retiring age. It is also realised that many of these officers are capable of rendering useful to the nation after their fifty-fifth birthday without in any way reducing the efficiency of the service. The Government acknowledges this fact by allowing some of them to remain in the service after they have attained the normal retiring age and has also been agreeable to the re-engagement of some who have already retired.

At the same time, the position of the younger people must be safeguarded. There are more universities, secondary schools and technical colleges in this country now than ever before. These institutions produce men and women who are well qualified for careers in the civil service and it seems only fair that the Government should do all it can to make full use of their skills and knowledge once they have completed their studies.

At the moment the increase in the number of persons qualified for appointment to many branches of the civil service is much greater than the rate of expansion of the service itself. Great caution must, therefore, be exercised in order to avoid many of our qualified men and women joining the ranks of the unemployed. These and other relevant factors are being, and must be, fully considered by the Government before it reaches a final decision.

It is hoped that at no distant date we shall be able to give this House a more positive indication of what we have in mind. Our aim is to find a solution which will be fair to all and which will maintain the Public Service of the Federation at maximum efficiency.

With these few remarks, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs** (Dr Jaja Wachuku): I beg to second.



**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West): I rise—

**Dr Jaja Wachuku**: On a point of order, I am not aware whether that is the proper seat for the Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*). He spoke from the Front Bench before and now he is going to speak from behind.

**Mr Speaker**: Order, order. I would not like to recall past events.

**Mr Brown**: I was speaking there as a Shadow Minister and I am speaking here now as a Member of this House. I support the Amendment to this Motion.

In supporting the Amendment, I wish to say that the retiring age being raised from fifty-five to sixty-five should also be made to be applicable to Members of this House.

There are several old politicians in this House who ought to be given compulsory retirement from this House, but for one reason or the other they are still being left to remain here.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East): Name them now.

**Mr Brown**: People like the Member for Benin East (*Chief Oronsaye*) should be given a compulsory retirement and if not, he should be seconded to the Senate. Also, people like my hon. Friend the Minister of Finance, as a matter of fact, should have been given a compulsory retirement by now and if possible I too ought to have been given a compulsory retirement.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East): On behalf of myself and other hon. old Members in this House, I want to say that we are old in age and in Parliamentary experience. I should like to remind the Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) that the old people who are here are here to lead the young ones.

**Mr Brown**: Why I was saying this is that some time ago, there was a proposal by the Government to extend the retiring age of politicians.

**Mr Akinbowale**: It was not in this House.

**Mr Brown**: I am not saying that it was in this House. It originated first in the Eastern House of Assembly.

**Mr Lar**: But you are not in the Eastern House of Assembly.

**Mr D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): May the Speaker let us know whether the hon. Gentleman is talking sense or not. What does he mean by "retiring age of Parliament?" Does he mean that the time Parliament lasts should be increased or that the age of Parliamentarians should be increased? I believe he is talking nonsense.

**Mr Speaker**: I am afraid, I cannot answer that question.

**Mr Brown**: I know what is worrying the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*). The census fever is still worrying him.

**Mr D. O. Enefola** (Igala South): On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman is not speaking directly to the terms of this Motion. The Motion is dealing with Civil Servants and not politicians. Politicians are not civil servants. He should not confuse the issue.

**Mr Brown**: People are expected to live up to 100 or 150 years and as such, may I say that it is not fair to retire people at the age of 55. I was once in the civil service. At present I am above 55 and if I had been in the service, I would have been getting my pension rights. I think that the figure of 65 years given by the Mover of this Motion is even too low.

I am supporting the Minister of Establishments because he has not been able to fix a real target. I know that the Government intends to increase the retiring age of civil servants to about 70 years. What is going on in this country to-day is that when people retire at the age of 55, they sometimes reapply for appointment in the same department. When they are re-employed, they receive their salaries and at the same time their pensions. I do not see any reason why the retiring age of civil servants should not be raised.

For instance hon. Members opposed the retirement of the former Clerk of the Parliaments. The Clerk of the Parliaments was still very active when he was asked to retire.

**An hon. Member**: He was not active.

**Mr Brown**: Hon. Members will recall that during the debate on the Motion of Thanks to him, Members from all sides of this House expressed the view that he should not have been

allowed to retire. There was no dissension whatever in this House then. The sooner the Government took steps to increase the retiring age, the better will it be for the civil servants. The Government should at the same time see to it that some hon. Members who are old should be retired.

**Mr E. D. Akinbowale** (Ijebu North): This is not a new subject, but it has only been clothed in a new gown. About this time last year, I moved a Motion on the Floor of this House to the effect that the retiring age of Civil servants should be raised from 55 to 60. This Motion was ably seconded by the Member for Egba North (*Mr Odebunmi*) and also supported by the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*). The answer from the Minister of Establishments at that time was that Government had accepted the Motion in principle.

Strangely enough the Motion has not been implemented since last year. Sometime ago, I tried to raise the matter again on the Motion for Adjournment on the Floor of this House, but it was killed by the Minister of Establishments, even though he gave me the assurance that he was going to answer me when I raise the matter.

Also on Thursday last, I filed a Question which appeared on the *Order Paper* but unfortunately the Question was put at the very last in order that it might lapse.

**Dr Jaja Wachuku**: On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman is imputing improper motive.

**Mr Speaker**: I doubt if the hon. Member's Question was deliberately put at the end of Oral Questions in order to avoid an answer to it.

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South): On a point of order, even if a Question lapsed, it could be re-listed if only the hon. Member gives the information.

**Mr Akinbowale**: My reason is this, when a Question which is put on the *Order Paper* lapses, the answer should be given under Written Answers in the *Hansard*.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East): I know the point that he is making. The *Hansard* of Thursday is out but the Questions are not answered there. We have to wait until the

*Hansard* for to-day is out because the report of the night sitting was not put in the *Hansard* of Thursday.

**Mr Akinbowale**: I am still correct. I am talking of to-day not yesterday or tomorrow. My Question has not been answered. This is a very important Question which affects the destiny of many valuable civil servants who have rendered useful service to this country. We are asking that the few of them that have been faithful to this country should be allowed to spend more five or seven years so that the country may enjoy more of their useful services.

Some hon. Members have suggested that these faithful civil servants should be regarded as 'dead weights'. I dare say that they are not 'dead weights' because when they retire from the Civil Service they sometimes apply for another employment and are able to give say seven or more years service. They are useful and capable to work. I do not see any reason why they should be forced to a corner in this country.

The decision to retire at the age of 55 years was made by our colonial masters with a view to going back to the United Kingdom to enjoy a cold climate. When they got back to the United Kingdom, they put in another 10 years service and finally retire at the age of 65. Here in our own country, we can stand the strain. We can do everything now. I do not see any reason why a man in his own country should not be allowed to serve up to 65 years of age before retiring.

It appears now that the Government has two proposals before it. The Government should choose whichever suits it. My Motion asked for 60 years and this Motion is asking for 65 years. Perhaps if Government will not accept 65 years, it may be prepared to accept 60 years as the retiring age.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): I have to begin by joining the former contributors to this debate in emphasising the fact that we expected that the Government ought to have done something to the request of this House because it is exactly one year, and to tell us that negotiations are going on between the Federal Government and the Regional Governments is certainly very unsatisfactory. If the Government is not willing to accede to the request of the House, the best thing is to let us know.

[MR OGBALU]

The statement of the Minister last year aroused a great deal of enthusiasm, and repeatedly the public have been asking us what the Government has done about the promise given on the Floor of this House. In fact, strangely enough, here is a copy of a telegram which I received this morning on this question of raising the retiring age of civil servants, and with your permission, I could read it—

“Ogbalu

*House of Representatives, Lagos.*

*Grateful raise question of age limit.  
Thanks.”*

By this you can just imagine the extent—

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West): We object to the Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) tendering a forged telegram on the Floor of this House without mentioning the name of the person who sent him the telegram.

**Mr Ogbalu**: I have a great deal of sense of responsibility and I would not come on the Floor of this House to lie. You can verify the number—6/57 dated 28th March, 1964.

What I am really asking for is that there should be an immediate implementation of the Minister's acceptance of this Motion. As somebody has already said, the Amendment which the Minister has proposed is certainly ambiguous. He said “other progressive countries”. But we do not know the progressive countries he has in mind—whether those which have something less than sixty-five, or some other countries having something up to seventy or more. There should have been a definite statement about the number of years which he has in mind. But this has not been done, and it certainly means that this House will continue talking and appealing to the Minister; and we have to meet the public to explain why our Ministers have not been sufficiently active. I think this is unfortunate. Our hon. Minister could have helped us a great deal by either rejecting the request or really doing something about it. I am appealing to him to see to it that within a reasonable period he should get in touch with his Colleagues, or whoever is involved, so that we may have our minds favourably at ease.

I never intended to begin to enumerate reasons why the Motion should be accepted, or why the age limit should be increased;

but for purposes of still convincing the Minister that it is better for him to take the matter up at once, I have to give some reasons in order to augment the ones already given by previous speakers.

In the first place, it is obvious that in this country we have quite a good number of expatriate officials who are employed and they constitute invisible imports—invisible imports in the sense that we have to pay them and they have to take the money we pay them and send them back to their homes. This has contributed in no small measure in giving us an adverse balance of trade. I think the best thing for the Government to do is to make use of those Nigerians who have reached the age of fifty-five who feel strong enough and willing to take up appointment, in order to avoid our having to ask for expatriates, simply because they have obtained the necessary techniques and expertise.

In this connection, the Minister raised the point that we have got about five universities and, possibly, that that would mean increasing unemployment, in the sense that school leavers may find it difficult to find jobs because these elderly people are still in the service.

I think that what we are concerned with is the immediate satisfaction of the demand in the country. At present, all the five universities have not started turning out graduates; it is only about two of them which are, as a matter of fact, turning out graduates. And before the rest will begin to turn out their own graduates it will take some years.

At present there is a great demand for the services of these people who are being retired at the age of fifty-five, and nothing prevents Parliament from making a new law and after, say, ten years reverting to the present fifty-five years. Parliament is supreme and can, in fact, legislate on anything. So I believe that if legislation is passed now, it will satisfy the present yearning but when the conditions change by our having to produce a lot of university graduates with the necessary qualifications, skill and aptitude, then Parliament can re-enact another law bringing the retiring age to something like fifty-five in order to satisfy the existing conditions. But at present there is a great need for the services of these people who are being retired. Some of them

House of Representatives Debates

1229

[Retiring Age of

31 MARCH 1964

Civil Servants]

1230

are engineers, some of them are foremen of works in the P.W.D., and, in fact, many of them do really make success after they have been retired. I know a great number of people who have been retired like this at fifty-five who have become very successful in life. But there are some others who have not got the opportunity to show their skill, depending on the nature of their job before they retired. I believe that if this class of people are given an opportunity, they will have something to contribute within the next five or six years. It is only if they are given the opportunity.

There are some other problems connected with this question of retiring age which are confronting the country. If we live in a country in which social amenities have reached an appreciable standard; if we live in a country where there has been a national security scheme and a national insurance scheme, then it will be easy for elderly people to be retired at the age of fifty-five, in which case they can really rely on old age pension, free medical service, and such other things which are obtainable in other countries.

At present when somebody retires from the civil service he is faced with insurmountable problems—the problem of how to keep himself alive, the problem of clothing and the problem of housing, and more than anything else, the problem of training his children. In fact, you will notice that the mere fact that some people are retired at this particular age of fifty-five would mean that some of them would even die without enjoying their pension, because the amount of pension given to them is inadequate to sustain them. They are unable to meet some of their difficult commitments which confront them. I think that this matter should be viewed passionately enough and economically too, in the sense that these people are still capable of making positive contributions to our economy because of their experience, their aptitude and their skill.

I do not say that where somebody has become a dead-weight he must certainly be retained in the office. After all, there are some people who are being dismissed from the civil service, and some people have been asked to stop work simply because they have been found incapable and cannot meet existing conditions. So if a situation like that arises where somebody is permitted to work beyond the age of fifty-five and he is found to be in-

capable, weak, sickly, and so on, then the Government can, with every bit of human sympathy, retire such a person. But to retire some people who are still strong enough and capable of doing a lot of work too early and then employ an expatriate to fill his post and pay such tremendous and, in fact, unimaginable salary, will be contributing in no small degree to the imbalance in our foreign trade.

My hon. Friend had given some figures on the question of life expectation in some countries covering some years ago. The most recent figures of the United Kingdom—I am quoting the United Kingdom figures simply because here in this country we have not reached a sufficient standard to have statistics on vital matters; vital statistics in this country are still incomplete—the United Kingdom life expectation as published this year is: 9.3 per cent male and 11.7 per cent female are expected to reach the age of seventy; 15.1 per cent male and 14.24 per cent female are expected to reach the age of sixty; and 12 per cent male and 12.5 per cent female are expected to reach the age of sixty-five, which the Motion is asking the Government to adopt. This would mean that the percentage of civil servants involved in this Motion would be really infinitesimal, taking into consideration so many draw-backs in Nigerian community to-day—absence of sufficient medical service, social securities, and so on. It is to be seen that an average Nigerian really does not live up to what some other people in advanced countries attain. Therefore, it can be said that only one per cent of males and a little bit more than one per cent of females will be affected by this proposition.

Then there will be some people who will be unwilling to continue in the civil service after the age of 55. There are some who are lucky to have got able sons and daughters who will not allow them to continue. In the final analysis it is only an infinitesimal proportion of the civil servants that we are talking about.

I think that this should be taken into serious consideration. The Minister will not think that our talking about the implication of the implementation of this demand would mean a colossal employment of all civil servants. It would mean just employment for a small proportion of the people who have no other alternative but to remain. After all, who would not like to enjoy life before being

[MR OGBALU]

transported to the gate beyond? People would want to enjoy a little bit of leisure. It is out of difficulties in life that somebody would continue to work after the age of 55. I am trying to convince the Minister that it is only a small proportion of people who are above the age of 55 that would, as a matter of fact, be called upon to continue.

Finally, I have to call upon the Government to introduce a national insurance scheme cover for all employment, old age, family allowances and free medical services throughout the country so as to alleviate the conditions of the various suffering classes.

I beg to support.

**Mr D. O. Enefola** (Igala South): I rise to support the Amendment, although I am not doing it wholeheartedly. I do not see much difference between the Amendment and the original Motion. The only difference I can see is that the Government have accepted that they are considering raising the retiring age without stating exactly to what age they want to raise it. But the original Motion says that the Government should consider raising retiring age to 65. I think it is high time now for the Government to make up their mind on the line of the consideration they are giving to retiring age in this country.

This question of raising the retiring age of civil servants in the country is actually very important and a serious matter that should be considered. We have been left a lot of things by our former colonial masters. This thing that we have inherited suited them. But now we have taken the reins of government in our own country. We should reconsider some of the legacies that they left for us which are detrimental to our own growth and living in this country. One of the things that we find they instituted in a way to help themselves to live better both in this country and in their own country is this question of retiring age. Any officer who comes from abroad, after living in Nigeria here for more than 40 or 45 years would like to return to his country at the age of 40 or 45, to be able to enjoy the rest of his life. But from the age of 50 to 60, he would have been so acclimatised to our own tropical climate that, he would dread returning to his cold country to shiver and die suddenly

of cold. That was why they cut the retiring age.

Now that we have got our own people manning our own services, it is high time we considered the span of life as the Mover and Seconder of this Motion have advanced in their debate. We should consider something that is suitable to our own people in this country.

This problem of raising the retiring age is both a social and economic problem. It is economic in that if we force a civil servant to retire at the age of 45, we lose both experience and valuable services—and experience is the best teacher. If you go to offices after office hours to see those who come back to work, you will find that these are the people who have reached the ages of 40 to 60. This is because they value their work. If you go to offices during official hours, you will see that it is the youths that waste the time conversing with their girl friends or their families at home on the telephone, leaving their work to suffer.

We know this is a problem of youth versus age. But at the same time, youth should not frown at the Government on this matter because they themselves will one day become old and reach this age that we are talking of. What we are doing now is to conserve their own age so that when they reach the same retiring age they would be able to continue working.

I say that if you want experience, and if you want better civil servants you will find them from among those who have reached the age of between 40 and 60. These are the people who are conscientious in their work; these are the people who are kind towards the public; these are the people who are tolerant and have lost any earthly lust. Their aim is to work for the benefit of the people. So economically, if you want efficiency and experience, it will be helpful to retain them. The more we lose their services the more we lose economically.

Socially, this is a special problem that, if considered by the Government, will help us economically. This is so because if we force a civil servant to retire despite the fact that his services are valuable and his experience useful, he will go home. But to go and farm, he cannot. To go into business, he has not got the money to do so. Perhaps this man might have got children even up to nine in number.

We do not know anything about birth control in this country. Those who are of the Moslem faith would marry up to four wives, and the more one marries the more children he produces. What are they going to do about their children? Up till now we have not got social services up to the standard we require. We have no free primary education yet in the whole of the country, except in Lagos. How will such people look after their children? We need somebody who is able, after working for thirty years, to save money against the time he will retire.

Socially, if we do not look after these old people, there will arise a problem in the society where they will go to. Some people would not like even to go to their own home environment because they would not know how to fit themselves into their own rural areas. They become a social problem to the urban areas where they live.

Another point is that if we increase the retiring age, it will stop corruption. If a man knows that he is retiring in five year's time, and that he is going to be replaced by a young man, he would try to make money by all means. He would either embezzle money or do something disgraceful; but if he knows he is still going ahead, this knowledge will stop him from doing evil. Thus, corruption would be stopped.

Again, if the retiring age is raised, it will help the Government because the number of people employed on contract, will be reduced.

**Mr Obande :** I do not know whether the hon. Member is really helping civil servants on this question of raising the retiring age; I do not think they would become corrupt because the retiring age is raised. I suggest that the Member should desist from making such suggestions. I have made this remark before.

**Mr Enefola :** I think the Minister got me quite wrong. I said that if the retiring age is increased, it will help in stopping corruption which we all cry against. Nobody knows why people are corrupt. Maybe because they want money.

At present, when people have retired and their services are still required, whether such people are expatriates or Nigerians, the usual

practice is to re-engage them on contract. Certainly, it will cost more to re-engage somebody on contract than to retain that person working normally until his retiring age. Men on contract must be given all the inducement to make them work hard. If we want to reduce the number of men working on contract, I think it is good we raise the retiring age.

I feel that wisdom in handling this matter is very important, and if we want to tap our resources in this country, we must encourage the young ones. It is the youths we have to encourage. We cannot get the fullest benefit out of a young man until he has got to the middle part of his life, and that is about the age of 40 years or above.

The same thing applies to our politicians. We find that the youths coming into politics before the age of forty are making a mess of the whole thing. We have seen how some young men are spoiled, and we see how they act. This is because they have not got to the age of reasoning when they could give their best.

I feel this is an economic as well as a social problem and I feel that the Government must act now by giving us a definite age of retirement.

The Government is using delaying tactics. They must make up their minds and let the public know. I beg to 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.*

*Question, that the words proposed to be left out, be left out, put and agreed to.*

*Question that the words proposed to be added be there added, put and agreed to.*

*Motion, as amended, put and agreed to.*

**Resolved :** That this House calls on the Federal Government to raise the retiring age of civil servants to bring it in line with what obtains in other progressive countries.

AMBASSADORS TO FRANCE, COMMUNIST  
CHINA AND JAPAN

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye :** It is a pity that this beautiful Motion is being halted in some quarters. So, I refer to Order 24 and wish, under this Order, to withdraw the Motion.

**Mr Speaker :** Is it the wish of this House that the Motion be withdrawn?

**Several hon. Members :** Aye, aye.

*Motion by leave withdrawn.*

POSTAL FACILITIES IN THE RURAL AREAS

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central): I beg to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper as follows :

That this House recognises the importance of a good communication system in the development of rural areas and is strongly of the opinion that the Six-Year Development Plan will mean a lot more to the rural areas if they are linked closely with the big cities, and calls on the Federal Government to make it a policy to establish a postal agency in every community that expresses a desire for this vital service.

This Motion is very simple, and it commends itself to the whole House. I hope that before I finish, I shall carry the whole House with me.

We know that this country is presently witnessing many revolutions in commerce, industry, and education. It is therefore only proper and suitable that it should also witness a revolution in our postal services.

This ambitious Six-Year Development Plan cannot be executed successfully unless our means of communication and postal facilities are also considerably improved. We know that the Minister of Communications himself is here and there is no doubt that he is putting all his ability, industry and vigour into the Ministry. This Motion, if passed, shall have met the wishes of this House and it would be a triumph.

Those who have the interest of the people of the rural areas at heart, those who think in terms of the whole country and not in terms of the very few privileged towns and cities, and those who live in the rural areas, know that sometimes, most of our communication systems by road and railway are disrupted by flood, and sometimes by broken bridges. When this happens, we have to resort to the postal service.

We have been agitating for this improvement since the life of this Parliament started, and each time we come here, or ask questions, the Minister has always told us that his hands are tied down by what he generally refers to as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. This is outmoded and archaic.

Since 1957, we have advanced considerably. We have attained independence and not only that, we have attained a Republican status. We have gone a very long way to Nigerianise our civil service. Wherever we are, we are telling the world that we are as competent as any nation not only in ruling ourselves but in providing for our essential commodities. These essential commodities make life more pleasant and enjoyable.

As far as these postal facilities in the rural areas are concerned, we have always been referred to something that was passed in 1957. I would like to refer to Page 6 of the Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. By referring to this Sessional Paper, we can know what is in the minds of the people who passed it. It reads as follows—

*“This new policy has one object in view. It is to extend full postal facilities to more and more people. There is a great need for better postal facilities and it is the desire of the Federal Government to continue to develop and extend them. They would be kept under constant review and will be modified if necessary in the light of experience”.*

As I have said, the authors of this *Sessional Paper* had in mind the question of modification as we go along on the road of progress. Now, have we not gone so far as to call on the Government to modify what was contained in the *Sessional Paper* of 1957 on the question of establishing postal agencies in the rural areas?

I refuse to accept that we have not advanced to the extent mentioned in that *Sessional Paper*. Before I go further, I might refer to the restrictions in that *Paper* because I can see from the *Order Paper* that the Minister has filed an Amendment to my Motion in which he says that “provided that such community satisfies the conditions laid down for the establishment of the postal agency”.

When he made this Amendment, I know he has in mind what is contained in the *Sessional Paper* No. 4 of 1957.

On Page 2 of the *Sessional Paper*, the following conditions are mentioned. The standards for establishing postal agencies: “the following standards will normally apply to the opening of new postal agency. There must be a minimum of 120 items of mail delivered a week in the rural area to be served”. I can answer

*House of Representatives Debates*

1237

[*Postal Facilities in*

31 MARCH 1964

*the Rural Areas*]

1238

this point straightaway. The establishment of a postal agency in a rural area will attract industries.

In other words, the Government should, first of all, bring postal facilities to the rural areas so as to awaken the consciousness of the people to make use of the facilities. But if we keep the postal facilities away from them, they would not know how to make use of them.

We asked the British Government to give us independence and we said that we would look after it. After some years, we were given independence. Had it been that we had not been given independence, we would not have known how to make use of it. We are asking the Government to establish postal facilities for us in the rural areas and we will know how to make use of the facilities.

The second condition is that in the rural areas, the nearest postal agency, sub-post office, or post office should be at least five miles away. When people in the rural area apply for a postal agency to be opened, the Government usually sends its officials to the village to go and investigate. The people in the village would not know what the Government is proposing to do. The Government would not put the people in the village into confidence. The last thing we would hear is that inquiries have been conducted and it has been found that a postal agency cannot be profitably opened because the distance is not up to four miles. Having regard to the areas covered by our towns and villages, a small town will be about three miles square and if such a town has a population of about 2,000 or 3,000 inhabitants, I think it would be unfair to deny it a postal facility because the Sessional Paper says that the distance must not be less than five miles.

The number three requirement is the question of urban areas and it is not necessary for my Motion. What I am saying is that the content of this Sessional Paper is out-moded in this present-day Nigeria. We want it to be drastically modified.

When a rural area is applying for a postal agency, the inhabitants of such an area are always very willing to build the postal agency and to provide water. They also, invariably, accept the responsibility of providing an

Agent and other staff. Yet, the Government will not take it up. I think that any village that is eager to open a postal agency and had at least a minimum number of 1,000 items should be given a postal agency.

This is the only way by which we can first of all save the influx of people from the rural districts to the townships. If they have not the minimum number of attractions in the villages, they would not like to stay. If a person knows that even if he writes a letter he cannot post it or if a letter is sent to him he cannot receive it in time, he will rush to the town.

If an investor knows that postal agencies or postal facilities are obtainable in a particular place, he will be eager to establish his industry there. But if he knows that facilities are non-existent—perhaps there is no motorable road, no railway line, no postal facility—he will not establish any industry there.

The very few post offices and postal agencies that we have are heavily congested and that is the reason why our letters take so many weeks to travel from one part of the country to the other. During the last Christmas, a postcard was posted from one part of Onitsha to another and it took almost two weeks before it could reach its destination. A letter was also posted by somebody in Onitsha to another person in the same locality in Onitsha and the addressee did not receive that letter until two weeks later. This is a personal experience and the cause of this is that the few post offices and the postal agencies we have are so congested that it takes a long time before they can efficiently transact business.

As I have said, I know that the Minister has filed an Amendment. The Amendment is not in itself very bad. We have a young Minister who is enthusiastic, industrious and who will listen to the yearnings of the people not only in the cities—we know that he has provided automatic telephone exchanges in the cities and towns—but also in the rural areas.

When this Motion is carried, the Minister should hasten the establishment of postal agencies in all the constituencies throughout this Federation including Awka Central. In respect of Awka Central, as the Mover of this



[MR MUOJEKE]

Motion, I would like to take this opportunity to mention a few places where I want the Minister to provide postal facilities. These are as follows—Ezira, Nawfija, Akpu, Amaokpala, Obeledu, Akwaeze, Ndiukwuenu, Ihite, Isiagu and others. These districts have satisfied the conditions laid down in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.

Finally, in considering the fate of villages and rural towns in respect of postal agencies, we must not lose sight of the fact that in these rural areas there is crying need for the conversion of postal agencies to sub-post offices and departmental post offices.

My Motion is simple and I am sure the Minister will accept it. I therefore wholeheartedly commend it to the House.

I beg to move.

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East): I rise to second this Motion ably proposed by my hon. Friend, the Member for Awka Central (*Mr Muojeke*). The Motion is a popular one and I am quite sure that it will pass through this House without much effort on the part of both the Mover and myself.

I would like to mention that less than a year ago a Motion similar in content was brought before the House and on the advice of the Minister of Communication, the Mover of the Motion, Chief P. Dame-Oboh, withdrew it as a result of what the Minister referred to as "phraseological contradiction." I must say that although the Motion was withdrawn, the acclamation with which it was received in the House at that time showed that it touched on a matter which was dear to the hearts of the Members.

In the same way to-day, I am sure that this Motion will receive popular approbation. The establishment of postal facilities in the rural areas is a *desideratum*: it is a must. This country belongs to all of us—town folks and the inhabitants of rural areas alike—and it is significant to mention at this juncture that more than 90 per cent of the country's population live in rural communities.

Of all the Federal assignments, communication is the only one that is capable of reaching the rural areas indiscriminately. In all the other cases, the activities are either limited to Lagos as in the case of Health and Education, or to townships or specialised zones.

It is therefore right, just and proper that rural areas should have the fullest advantage of this one single opportunity to a federal amenity.

The Motion expressly prays that a Government policy be established which makes it imperative for a postal agency to be established in any rural community that expresses a desire for it. There is to be one and only one condition and that is the desire of the people to have it. This demand is most judicious.

It is judicious firstly because no postal agency can cost the Government more than one hundred pounds to equip.

Secondly, the building of the agency supplied by the community. It is not provided by the Government; it is normally provided by the community and Government does not spend half a penny for providing the building.

Thirdly, the staff of the postal agency are paid by the community and in some cases, local councils are asked to pay these allowances.

Fourthly, it is a revenue making avenue for the Government and this is important in view of the fact that there is great need for finance which the country so much needs to-day to implement its Economic Development Programme.

Postal communication as far as the rural areas are concerned to-day leaves much to be desired. It is most abominable to find that in some communities of over one thousand to two thousand people in this country, the people there have to travel four to six miles in order to post their letters. This amounts to a gross negligence of the people's welfare. This odious manner of governing the people must be deprecated.

When industries are to be sited, the rural areas are ruled out. As for road programme, nobody thinks about them and when you talk of electricity, it is an anathema to the rural areas; only the township dwellers are considered good enough to enjoy electricity.

I want to say that Nigeria is for us all and the natural wealth must be spread in a way that will make us all to know that we are citizens of the same country.

House of Representatives Debates

1241

[Postal Facilities in

31 MARCH 1964

the Rural Areas]

1242

As I have said before, when a similar Motion came up last year the Minister cleverly dislodged the Mover. I hope that that will not repeat itself to-day and if an attempt is made that way, I hope Members will react against it.

On the advantage which this policy is going to give, let me say that apart from being a revenue making source, it will be an asset to our Development Programme for if an investor who is willing to come to a rural area is assured of workers and of good communication links, he may be attracted to establish his industry. When one or two industries are established in an area, they will go a long way to reduce the outflow of population from the rural areas into the towns.

Again, with the savings bank departments attached to the agencies, many people especially school children will begin to learn to save and the overall advantage of this in promoting the saving psychology of a nation can never be over estimated.

When the Minister of Communications was replying to this Motion last year, he mentioned that he was going to lay before this House a new White Paper to displace the oft quoted, out moded Mbadiwe's Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. That was rightly described by the Member for Abaja and Ngwo (*Mr Eneh*), as the Government cathecism. In any case, the point the Minister made then was that he was going to lay this *Paper* before the House and that he was going to change the conditions put down in the Sessional Paper No. 4.

He said that he was going to see that the number of units for postal agencies was reduced and that some of the difficult conditions laid down in Sessional Paper No. 4 were altered. We cheered him and we were pleased when he said this. But I do not know whether others have seen the promised *Paper* because I personally have not. So, I want to say that it is morally wrong for anybody to play on the intelligence of this House, and of the Nigerian public in this manner.

That Sessional Paper must see the light of day before we finally leave Lagos for our respective constituencies. I must confess that I get baffled by this type of attitude towards us. We are told one thing and another thing is being done. Possibly, we are being regarded as foolish and unintelligent people. I think this has to be corrected.

We come here to represent constituencies and when some of us talk about the amenities that are being extended to the other constituencies, we are being laughed at, and sometimes regarded as foolish people. But those who are in a position to issue out these amenities, quickly issue them out to their own constituencies and make themselves popular in their constituencies at the expense of the other hon. Members of this House. I am protesting vehemently on this issue.

I do remember very well that when somebody in the Western Region was at one stage the Minister of Communications here, he had postal agencies and postal facilities spread out in Ogbomosho area. In another place where somebody was, telephone exchanges and automatic exchanges were fitted in an area which was not, according to the *White Paper*, entitled to postal facilities. An example of this is Aro Ndiziogu.

To-day, there are some places having only four regular subscribers, for example, Igbotako. In this area, there is an automatic exchange with only four regular subscribers. These things happen without any regard to the conditions and provisions set down in the Sessional Paper. Then these people who have distributed these amenities will come here to tell us that the Sessional Paper says this or that but it seems that the Sessional Paper does not apply to them in the distribution of amenities to their own areas.

I think this is most unfair to the other hon. Members of the House. Afterall, all of us have to face our constituencies when election time comes and when somebody has stayed here for five years without doing anything for his constituency, how will he be elected again? This is absolutely impossible. I think it is high time the Ministers changed their attitude towards Members in this House in the distribution of amenities.

We have had Sessional Paper No. 4 and perhaps the Minister will have to bring in Sessional Paper No. 6 or No. 9, but whichever number he chooses to give the Sessional Paper this time, he must get one thing clear. We want him to draw up a policy by which it will be possible for everyone of us to have a Post Office in his own constituency.

[MR MORDI]

In the case of a sub-post office, it is said that a sub-post office should have a volume of business of up to 24,000 units. In this country where the business transacted in a postal agency is so limited—a postal agency is not allowed to transact money order business, or telegrams—it is not possible for most of these postal agencies to run up to 24,000 units of business.

It therefore, becomes imperative that the business of a postal agency must be reduced. As a matter of fact, I am going to ask that it be reduced to 10,000 units. It is interesting to point out that the Government will not be at a loss at all in doing this because it is exactly the same equipment which is used for the postal agency which is going to be used for the sub-Post Office.

A postal agency in my town had gone through these stages. It was once a postal agency, then it was converted into a sub-Post Office. By the time it was converted into a sub-Post Office, there was practically no further equipment that the Government or the Posts and Telegraphs Department had to get to make it into a Post Office.

All the Minister of Communications has to do is to ask the postal agent to increase his business; instead of limiting himself to the selling of stamps and postal orders, he can now carry out money order business and the sale of telegrams.

This is an additional advantage to the Government because more revenue could be collected. After all, we are talking about our Development Programme. If people pay poundage on the money orders they buy, this will be an advantage to the Government.

There are some other points I would like to mention in respect of facilities in the rural areas. In many cases, where there are postal agencies, the postal agents are only committed to earn £3 as allowance. Some of them are even paid £2-10s. I think that this is terrible. And they are expected to be there daily! They cannot go to farm and they cannot go to market.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): Why? They can if they like.

**Mr Mordi**: If they stay at the postal agency till 12 o'clock, when can they go to market? What are they going to do in the market when the market is almost over? I think there

should be a change of attitude; more liberality should be shown to those people who are working in the postal agencies.

As a matter of fact, it is even known that in some postal agencies the people have to pay their own mail runners. I think that if a postal agency is situated at a place very far away from the post office to which the mails should be carried, the Government should send the mail runners in the post office to collect the mails from the postal agency and not lay additional financial burden on the people who own the postal agency.

Finally, I would like to particularize the problems which we have in the postal agency in my own constituency. I have several times in this House made points about places like Nsukwa and Ila. I do know the same thing applies to some other Members here. There are certain areas where you do not have any telephone, and facilities for sending a telegram are so far away from the nearest Post Office, sometimes 60 miles or in some cases 20 to 25 miles. In this particular case, a place like Nsukwa or a place like Ila is about 60 miles away from the nearest Post Office. I understand that in the North, in fairness to them, there are places which are up to 50 miles away from the nearest Post Offices. When there is a case like that, I think that the question of this condition or that condition being fulfilled before telephone service should be supplied them is nonsensical, honestly, because if somebody is in Lagos and his family gets into trouble at home, the only means through which the man can intimate his wife or relation quickly about the matter at home is by telephone.

**Mr Speaker**: Order. Do I understand the hon. Member to be seconding a Motion for the establishment of postal agencies? If that is what he is seconding, could he please address himself much more closely to that.

**Mr Mordi**: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Your point is well taken. In any case, I think that at the appropriate time, I will have to elaborate on this because the Minister ought to give some serious consideration to it. Laws are made for our benefit; we are not meant to be ruled by laws as if we were animals. I think that in respect of my constituency, I will seriously charge the Minister to make it a point of duty to supply all the villages with telephone because in my own area—

**Mr Speaker:** Order. I appreciate that Private Members' Motions do provide a lot of opportunity for freelance speech-making, but what the hon. Member is seconding is a Motion for the establishment of "a postal agency in every community that expresses a desire for this vital service." If he is using his constituency as an example, that might be tolerated to some extent, but he cannot take the liberty, at the expense of the whole House, to stress the particular cases in his constituency too much.

**Mr Mordi:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. All I was just trying to do was to give an example to make it more impressive. If I talk generally, the Minister may think that I am just making a wild talk. I thought I should specify in certain cases and perhaps get him to recognise the importance. In any case, your ruling is well taken.

What I am saying is that there is no community in Nigeria—I do not know of any village or town in this country—which will not wish to express the need to have a postal agency. In many cases, many have expressed their wish but the point is that they were refused to be supplied with it. The exact way to express the need to have a postal agency is perhaps this: many people put up the building and the Minister refuses to accept the building and refuses to give them a postal agency. We are asking—I hope it is in the minds of all Members—that every community that expresses the wish to have a postal agency should be supplied with it by the Minister of Communications.

I beg to second.

**The Minister of Communications** (Chief Olu Akinfosile): I should like to thank the Mover of this Motion to which the Government gives full support, subject to a very minor Amendment designed, primarily, to strengthen the objective of the Motion.

This Amendment is—

Line 5, delete full-stop at end of Question and *add*—“, provided that such community satisfies the conditions laid down for the establishment of a postal agency.”

This Motion is in full accord with the policy of the Government on the provision of postal facilities except that the Mover does not appreciate that a desire by a community for the provision of postal facilities requires to be translated into concrete reality if it is not to become a mere dream.

For the last few years, the Government has regarded the development of postal services as a challenge to be met by the community as well as by the Government. From time immemorial, in any postal administration, it has been necessary to lay down certain basic conditions for the establishment of postal agencies in the hope that the public would, thereby, be protected. In this country, we have always insisted that before a postal agency is established, in any community, the following conditions should be observed:—

(i) Firstly, the evidence that the Agency would be efficiently conducted by the employment of a suitable Postal Agent from the community concerned. It would serve no purpose to bring a Postal Agent from one part of the country to the other if his main task is to act as a liaison between the community and the Government. It follows, therefore, that it is part of the onus of the community, desiring the establishment of a postal agency, to be able to provide a suitable person who should possess certain rudimentary qualifications to enable him to carry out his duties.

(ii) Secondly, it is necessary that the Agency has adequate means of safeguarding cash. It is obvious that a community, desiring the establishment of a postal agency, should also ensure that the accommodation provided is such that the public cash is in safe custody. It is no use, for instance, providing a mud hut with thatched roof for a Postal Agency since it can easily be broken down by an unauthorised intruder.

(iii) Thirdly, since the Postal Agents are not civil servants, it is necessary to insist that the surety given by the community, in the event of public funds being misappropriated by the Postal Agent, is adequate. In 1958-59, a total of £1,454 was lost in postal agencies. In 1959-60 this loss dropped to £1,002. Unfortunately—

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): What is the loss in the main Post Offices?

**Chief Olu Akinfosile:** Unfortunately, however, in 1961-62, the loss again rose to 2,203. If all these losses are adequately recovered, as suggested, we would, in spite of the risk of increased losses, go ahead with the plan to establish more and more Postal Agencies throughout the Federation. Without such—

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East) : On a point of order, I want—

**The Deputy Speaker** : May I say that the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) is out of order, because he is not on his seat.

**Chief Akinfosile** : Without such surety, however, it is obvious that the Government would have to take drastic steps to ensure that public funds are adequately safeguarded. These steps may, in turn involve Government providing all the staff in postal agencies, with the resultant increase in expenditure probably greater than the actual losses incurred. The most efficient way, therefore, to avoid this vicious circle is to insist that any community desiring the establishment of a Postal Agency provides adequate surety.

In the past, we have insisted that, in addition to these conditions, the Postal Agency should be reasonably accessible to Departmental Post Offices, be situated in a developed area and that the Agent be willing to undertake additional work. There should also be at least one hundred and twenty items of business undertaken at the Postal Agency each week. I am, however, quite willing to do away with all these conditions only insisting that the three vital conditions already referred to are adhered to strictly. Government would continue to carry out its responsibility by supplying the furniture and fittings required for the Postal Agencies as well as meet all the allowances payable to Postal Agents.

I have said, in reply to several questions in this House, that the Government is determined to provide better postal facilities throughout the Federation by effecting a liberalisation of the present conditions for establishing Postal Agencies, Sub-Postal Offices and Departmental Post Offices. I propose to introduce measures for this liberalisation in a White Paper on Postal Development to be laid before this House in the very near future.

**Mr Mordi** : On a point of order, this is exactly the statement made by the Minister on the Floor of this House a year ago. He has repeated it again. The Minister cannot continue to play on our intelligence like that.

**The Deputy Speaker** : If the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) has forgotten what the Minister told him last year, there is no harm in reminding him.

**Chief Akinfosile** : As a matter of fact, I have myself approved the draft of the White Paper concerned.

I feel quite certain that when the White Paper is presented, it would receive the full support of this House. I do not wish, at this stage, to refer to the policy statement contained in the proposed White Paper, except to say that the present Motion is fully in accord with the spirit of the White Paper, subject to the minor Amendment proposed.

I beg to move.

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

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (Ibarapa) : I rise to oppose the Amendment made by the Minister because the Minister is not quite sure of what he is going to bring out for the country. He said that he has prepared a White Paper. That was exactly what he said last year, and this year, we have not got anything new. We hope that he is not going to say the same thing next year.

Now, if that White Paper is to be presented this season or very soon, I want the Minister to remember that not every community will be able to satisfy the conditions is bringing up, because I am quite sure that he is going to bring us some stringent conditions that the community will not be able to satisfy. But I will suggest to him that—

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh** (Ishan West) : On a point of order, for the information of the Member for Ibarapa (*Mr Gbolagunte*), last year—

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order. That is not a point of order.

**Mr Gbolagunte** : I was saying that the Minister should make it a condition in his proposed White Paper that any village or community with a population of at least five thousand people should be supplied with a minimum of one Postal Agency. I want to cite my constituency as an instance. I have a constituency of 136,000 people and there are only three Postal Agencies. There is one village in the constituency which is ten miles away from the nearest Postal Agency. If every village with a population of at least five thousand people is supplied with a Postal Agency, then all the seven villages in my area will have Postal Agencies. So I want the Minister to make the

condition for the establishment of these Postal Agencies very easy for the people.

I know that the Minister is afraid that money is swindled in the Postal Agencies, but so far, any Postal Agent that is appointed by the Government has two sureties. I am quite sure that these monies that are being lost by different Agents can be recovered from their sureties. So, we should not be scared by what the Minister has said that people steal money from the Agencies. If these monies are stolen, the people who stood surety for the Agents can be called upon to pay back the monies.

I hope also that in preparing his White Paper, the Minister will remember that the local communities are already burdened with the existing Postal Agencies because the Postal Agents are given very small allowances and the local communities are asked to add more. In some cases, in fact in all cases, the mail carriers are paid allowances by the local communities.

Under the White Paper, the Government should undertake to pay salaries to these Postal Agents and mail carriers, instead of mere allowances.

When this White Paper will be out, we hope too that the Minister will consider those of us who do not have telephone and telegraph facilities in our communities. I remember a telegram which was sent to me in my constituency last year requiring me to appear in Lagos on a certain day. It was a priority telegram from the Clerk of the Parliaments. I did not get the telegram until the eleventh day! Well, it was not my fault, but I think it was the fault of the Minister of Communications who will not give me a Postal Agency that will transact such business in time. I hope that the Minister will realise that we are not located in big towns like Lagos or Okitipupa and all the rest of it, and that we do not have automatic exchanges in our communities. Therefore, Postal Agencies are very necessary in our different communities.

It is unfortunate that Post Offices have started to reduce supplies to the Postal agencies. The Postal Agency in my own Constituency was receiving materials up to the tune of £200, but very recently, it was reduced to £40. When this happened I went to the Post Master in Ibadan to find out what was the reason and he told me that they would not be

given more than £40 because of the cases of theft in the different Agencies. In effect, we do not have stamps to buy. One cannot buy Postal Orders to the tune of £10. One has to go to Ibadan, a distance of forty-five miles away, to buy a Postal Order of £5. I therefore appeal to the Minister to allow these Postal Agencies to have materials up to the tune of £100 instead of cutting them to £40.

I beg to oppose.

*Several Members rose.*

**The Deputy Speaker :** In view of the general interest demonstrated, I think we can do with a few more speakers.

**Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West) :** I rise to support the Amendment moved by the Minister of Communications. However, I have to express surprise at the speech of the Minister where he said that those Agents taking charge of the Postal Agencies are not regarded as civil servants. If that is true, may I suggest to him that the time is overdue when the Minister of Communications should be converted into a public corporation. In other countries, communications are not handled by the Government. Speaking seriously, I do not think it is reasonable enough to pay a postal agent £1, £2 or even £3 pounds a month. I do not think it is reasonable also to keep a human being on a salary of £3 a month.

In my own area, Postal Agencies are operated in partnership with the County Councils. The Federal Government gives out a pound and then the County Council gives out another pound to meet the salary of these Postal Agents.

What I would like to suggest to the Minister is that the establishment of postal agencies in the rural areas of the country, and even the entire Ministry of Communications, should be taken away from Government and converted into a public corporation. If that is not possible right now, postal agencies in each area should be handed over to the County Councils. In my opinion, these County Councils should be able to control the operation of the postal agencies. If those working in the postal agencies are not civil servants, and they are not controlled by County Councils, then our money is not safe because the Postal Agents cannot be controlled by the Ministry of Communications. I am, therefore, suggesting that we either

[MR BROWN]

convert the Ministry of Communications in this country into a public corporation or hand over the establishment of postal agencies in rural areas to the County Councils.

**Mr U. O. Ayeni** (Afenmai North West): I think the Amendment of the Minister of Communications is exactly what he told us last year. I want to emphasise the fact that all over the rural areas, the outcry is for better means of communications. Nobody is pleased with this idea of Sessional Paper No. so, so and so.

The point I want to raise is about the question of these sureties by the Local Government Authorities. It is not in the interest of the communities. For instance, in Epoma, the Postal Agency at the present time has been closed down. All letters addressed to me and the people in the community cannot be claimed. It is not the Postal Agent that suffers. It is we the consumers who suffer a great deal. I think the regulations should be revised in such a way that when there is a default it is the man who is responsible that should suffer and, instead of closing down a postal agency, somebody should be brought immediately to replace the man who has defrauded. It does not help to close down a postal agency till the money lost is recovered.

The other point that I want to raise is that in the 1957-1962 Development Programme, certain places were put down for full departmental post offices, and one of such places should be my home town, Ora, in view of the volume of work transacted there. Unfortunately, it is not on the priority list, and when any Question is asked the answer usually is "as soon as possible". With that Department nothing is seen and nothing is ever possible. For the first time I am supporting the Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) that if the Ministry of Communications is converted into a public corporation it will be able to work better; and if Government really wants to make money from post offices, facilities for communication should be extended to all corners of the Federation so that people can patronise the post office itself and Government will be able to realise money out of it.

I support the Amendment.

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh** (Ishan West): On a point of order, I am the most affected as far as postal agencies are concerned. The Postal Agency in my area has been closed down.

Last year, the Minister of Communications told us that the sum of £7,000 has been set aside to build a post office, but up till now—

**The Deputy Speaker**: Order. Your views are now known in the guise of a point of order.

*Whereupon the Member for Zaria Central (M. Saidu Sango) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.*

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

*Question, That the words proposed to be added be there added, put and agreed to.*

*Question, as amended, put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, That this House recognises the importance of a good communication system in the development of rural areas and is strongly of the opinion that the Six-Year Development Plan will mean a lot more to the rural areas if they are linked closely with the big cities, and calls on the Federal Government to make it a policy to establish a postal agency in every community that expresses a desire for this vital service, provided that such community satisfies the conditions laid down for the establishment of a postal agency.*

#### GINGER ALE FACTORY IN SOUTHERN ZARIA

**M. Shekarau Ka'a Layya** (Zangon Katab): I rise to move the Motion standing in my name—

That this House urges the Federal Government to explore the possibility of establishing a Ginger Ale factory in Southern Zaria in view of the abundant supply of ginger in this area.

Ginger is the main cash crop of the people of Southern Zaria who, unfortunately, are not blessed with any other mineral or other natural resources which can enable them to earn money and make profit in the various seasons of the year. On top of this, neither the Federal Government nor the Northern Regional Government has established any industry in this area. Added to this is the fact that private capital is not enough whereby individuals can build their own factories. I am not saying that the absence of other natural resources is the fault of the Federal Government; it is only an accident of nature. However, this situation can be corrected if this Motion is carried, since there is ginger in abundance to the extent that it is exported.

As the following statistical data show, there is an urgent need for a ginger ale factory to be established and, with your permission, Sir, I beg to quote the quantity of ginger exported between 1960 and 1963. In the year 1960 the quantity of ginger there was 1,254 tons at a value of £100,718. In the year 1961, 1,811 tons at a value of £149,914. In the year 1962, 1,681 tons at a value of £163,845. In the year 1963, 2,544 tons at a value of £358,147.

I know as well as everybody knows that one of the government's policies is to reduce unemployment and thus provide food and shelter for the masses. Without any discrimination, this Motion is in keeping with this aspiration because if it is carried it will help to ease the problem of unemployment in Southern Zaria. Secondly, it will help the farmers to improve their method of cultivation of ginger and thus bring in more output and increase the national income.

Moreover, this will help to make the Federal Government very popular with the people. It is with this serious point of view that I commend this Motion to all sides of the House for their support. And so, I respectfully beg to move.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East): I rise to second the Motion so ably moved by my hon. Friend the Member for Zangon Katab (*M. Shekarau Ka'a Layya*). The Mover has quite correctly told this House what exactly this Motion seeks.

When the ginger ale factory is established in Southern Zaria it will then check the exodus of the youths from the rural areas to the urban areas. We always appeal to the people to stay where they are, and we always talk on the Floor of this House of people trooping into big towns and cities. The reason for the mass migration of people in the rural areas to the urban areas is lack of large industries such as the one we are now appealing to the Federal Government to establish in Southern Zaria.

In any case, when this Motion is accepted by the Federal Government, it will provide more employment as my hon. Friend has said, not only for the people of Southern Zaria but also for the entire people of the Federation.

We are very lucky in this country because we are one of the largest producers of ginger in the world, and Southern Zaria in particular is fortunate to have this crop. But the only

thing that we do not understand is that the Federal Government does not come to the support of these people by making use of this valuable crop which is known all over the world.

Further to what my hon. Friend has already said, my latest figures are as follows. In 1963, from January, Nigeria exported ginger to outside world to the tune of 4.4 million pounds weight at the value of £273,200. This is only from January to August, 1963; not even for the whole year. Mr Deputy Speaker, you can see the amount of ginger that we produce in Southern Zaria. Indeed, Southern Zaria has placed Nigeria on the world map because Southern Zaria has been known for production of ginger.

In 1963, we exported to the United Kingdom 2.9 million pounds weight of ginger at a value of £180,500. And also, we exported to the Federal Republic of Germany .8 million pounds weight of ginger at the rate of £39,100. Also, we exported to the United States of America in the same year .5 million pounds weight of ginger at the value of £33,500. and we also exported ginger, in the same year, to many places in Europe, places like Sweden, Denmark and the rest of them.

So, to allow the people from Southern Zaria to speak, I would like to close my remarks with this. When a ginger ale factory is established in Southern Zaria, more money will be made available to the farmers. There will be ample opportunities of gainful employment for our youths. Land will then have more value and thus bring comfort to the generality of our friends in Southern Zaria.

I beg to support.

**Minister of State** (Alhaji Usumanu Maitambari): While the Federal Government welcomes in principle this Motion standing in the names of the Member for Zangon Katab (*Mallam Shekarau Ka'a Layya*), the Member for Lowland East (*Mr S. D. Lar*), the Member for Kauru Lere (*Mallam Haikali Maigari*) and the Member for Kubau Saba (*Mallam Yusah'u Muhammed*), I wish to request your permission, Mr Deputy Speaker, to clarify the position of this Government in the field of industrialisation of the country. My reason for wishing to put forward this clarification is so that hon. Members would know what obstacles exist that make it impracticable for the Government to do more than it is already doing in this field.



[ALHAJI USUMANU MAITAMBARI]

From time to time hon. Members ask what proposals my Ministry has for establishing industries in certain parts of the country, or what industries have been established by the Federal Government.

While I heartily welcome this spirit of enquiry which shows the keenness of Members in matters affecting the industrial development of the country—a subject in which we all are deeply interested—I would like to crave the indulgence of Members to explain that in view of the limited land available to the Federal Government for residential and industrial purposes, my Ministry is primarily concerned with the creation of incentives and a healthy atmosphere for investment rather than in the establishment of industries as such.

Members are no doubt aware that industrial development is a concurrent subject under the Constitution, so that the Regional Governments have a primary and very important responsibility in the matter in view of the resources in hand and raw materials available to them.

Besides as Members will appreciate, several factors govern the location of industries. These include availability of sufficient quantity of raw materials, nearness to ports and other means of transport, and to markets, adequate communications, and ready access to banking and other facilities.

**Several hon. Members:** They are all there.

**Alhaji Usumanu Maitambari:** But there are no ports in Southern Zaria.

It is the policy of the Federal Government to help foster the growth of industries in the country; but this it can more fruitfully do by creating the conditions favourable to overseas investments and industrial growth.

Foremost amongst these conditions are the maintenance of political stability in the country, the giving of fiscal and other incentives to approved industries during their early stages of development, and the giving of effective protection to shield off the products of these industries from severe and sometimes unfair competition from their more developed overseas rivals in the Nigerian market.

It is not the normal practice of the Federal Government to invest indiscriminately in industrial projects, neither is it the practice of the Federal Government to initiate action in

the establishment of industries. However, during the course of the last few years, it has been found necessary that the Government should invest in a few industries which are either of strategic or of major economic significance to the country. These include amongst others, oil refinery, cement, tyre and tube, sugar, and pulp and paper.

In this connection, I would say that a ginger ale factory in Zaria, where raw material is available in abundant quantities and where transport and communications are excellent, would be desirable. It is not considered expedient, however, for the Federal Government to enter into this business on account of the fact that already the market for soft drinks is very much over-supplied.

I am sure hon. Members know that the London and Kano factory, which is partly owned by the Northern Government, produces ginger ale and I am sure it draws some of its raw materials from the Zaria market.

This explanation applies generally to the requests made to the Federal Government for establishment of industries in specific areas.

I hope that by this brief explanation I have succeeded in defining more clearly the role that this Government plays in the industrialisation of the country. Moreover, I hope that the Movers of the Motion now clearly appreciate that even though the Government accepts the Motion, it is doing so with the clear understanding that, as things are, it is not practicable to implement it.

*And it being 5.45 p.m., the Deputy Speaker interrupted business, pursuant to the Resolution of the House—This Day.*

#### ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1964-65) BILL  
(FOURTH ALLOTTED DAY)

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND READING  
(18TH MARCH)

*Question proposed, That the Bill be now read a Second time.*

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North):** I was speaking on Thursday when I was interrupted, but I am surprised that I am about to be interrupted again.

I was discussing the Industrial Bank last Thursday, and I was emphasising the fact that the giving out of loans to industries and firms

requires vigilance on the part of the Government. Government should make sure that these loans which are given are made use of for the purposes for which they were intended.

In the past, loans have been given without sufficient securities backing them. Reports have occurred in which about £16,500 had been spent in the Loans Board by the Minister, using his discretionary powers—powers conferred on him by virtue of his ministerial authority. This is a very important matter to consider if the industrial bank is to make the progress for which it is intended.

I think that the reason why the Federal Republic of Nigeria First Development Loan, subscribed by the public and various subscriptions other than by the Central Bank totalled only £2.4 million out of £20 million was because it was far more difficult to sell Government securities to the public in the midst of more attractive investment opportunities, such as land, building and other non-development, but glamorous projects involving little or no risk.

Moreover, our people enjoy prestige in land ownership and house ownership which offer immediate returns; hence the present stampede for house building, land acquisition and luxurious house ownership even by Ministers who ought to know better in this respect and set a good example.

To remedy the situation, I suggest that the Development Funds should bear higher interest rates, luxurious buildings like the ones inhabited by the Ministers should be discouraged, television expansion should be halted, if not dismantled. Display of opulence, excessive costly parties and sumptuous living by wealthy men, some politicians, Ministers and public officials in the midst of widespread squalor and poverty, must be stopped.

In other words, there should be less emphasis on consumption and luxurious goods if people would save enough money in order to invest in the Development Fund set up by the Federal Government. Leaders must not just echo saving *ad nauseam* while they do not practise it. The introduction of television was premature and was just for the sake of opulent and capitalist class in the capitals who to-day wield the reins of political power. It has contributed adversely to our imbalance of trade, because the emphasis on luxurious goods to satisfy the whims and caprices of the few militates against our economic progress.

As for the Treasury Bills, I am surprised that contrary to the undertaking given by the hon. Minister, the Central Bank branch opened last year in Port Harcourt has not as yet started accepting applications for subscriptions so as to make it possible for the public to obtain and sell Treasury Bills. I appeal to the Minister to speed this up.

I have to appeal to the hon. Minister of Mines and Power to light Awka now that the electricity project is almost completed. My people are getting restless. I appeal to the Government to refund the people of Nimo and Abagana the cost of their post offices without further delay. I appeal to the Minister of Works to take over Abagana-Mgbakwu-Ebenbe-Iwollo-Nsukka-Idah road which is inter-regional. I appeal to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to establish iron foundry and arms factory at Awka where the aptitude, skill and natural propensity of the people in these directions are well-known all over the Federation.

In connection with the Six-Year Development Programme, I congratulate the Government for the progress so far achieved as reflected in the Progress Report of the Minister of Economic Development. I crave your indulgence to observe that my people are greatly disturbed by the Government's silence over the establishment of the iron and steel mill at Onitsha. I think that a major project like this ought to have been started by now if it is to fall within the Six-Year Development Plan. I feel that in view of the large and high quality iron and coal deposit in Onitsha province, transport facilities, central position, availability of man-power and other factors conducive to the success of iron and steel industry, and in order to maintain national unity and mutual trust through diversification of industrial locations in the Six-Year Development Plan, the iron and steel industry ought to be established at Onitsha. If am I well informed, expert opinion supports this.

I must confess my surprise at the answer given by the hon. Minister of Mines and Power that there was no iron deposit at Ndikelionwu in Awka Division. I think that Federal Government Ministries work hand in hand with their counterparts in the Regions. As a matter of fact magnetic iron deposit—lode stone of high quality—was discovered last year at Ndikelionwu. The Chemical expert in the Eastern Region Ministry of Commerce and

[MR OGBALU]

Industry analysed it and in an official document in my possession stated that the iron contained 55.71% pure iron and 17.68% silica. Later a team of Government experts including the chemical analyst visited the town and found the deposit really extensive.

If one looks at the geological record of Nigeria one would find that the iron deposit with highest pure iron contains barely 50%. I call upon the hon. Minister of Mines and Power to come to Awka and see this treasure himself. This justifies my earlier demand for a comprehensive mineral survey of the country and particularly areas like Awka Division which has never been surveyed in the past.

I commend the Ministry's effort in maintaining the stability of the Nigerian pound. While agreeing that inflation is a two edged sword, it can be profitably used to induce compulsory saving so greatly needed to-day by our country. An equitable measure of inflation in underdeveloped countries helps to bring a large non-monetary sector of the economy adamant to saving and investment incentives into the ambit of the money economy thereby resulting in increasing investment. It depends on the source of this inflation—whether it is spontaneous or deliberately created by known methods.

Inflationary financing is a secret method, irrespective of social justice, of imposing concealed saving on the community. Fiscal policy involving increased taxation—the open method of forced saving—is an alternative answer to inflation but already, Sir, the level of taxation is too high and collection has therefore been greatly hampered. I have no time to give more reasons, but I feel that our Minister and the Central Bank can control inflation if it begins to cut against us.

As for banking policy, I endorse completely the present attitude of the Government. I share the view that a liberalisation of the liquidity ratio, perhaps, to a level obtainable in some advanced countries might lead to wild cat lending by commercial banks. The ultimate end might be a colossal banking failure likely to

be catastrophic and can shatter completely all the sacrifices we have been making all these years. This does not mean that I have no confidence in our indigenous Nigerian bankers as to their ability, prudence and managerial skill, but discretion is the better part of valour.

I should like to comment briefly on our balance of payments. In this connection, I have to say that the invisible goods are to a great extent responsible for adverse balance of payments. A lot of people do come into this country and are offered employment, and they have to earn large sums of money which they send home. This certainly militates against us. Therefore, in order to help to restore confidence in our trading position, I appeal to the Government to explore the possibility of further hastening the training of Nigerian experts in view of the almost insurmountable obstacles facing us.

The Minister is to be congratulated for the reduction of £10 million in our trade deficit which has been made from £36 million to £20 million. I suggest that this reduction could further be accelerated.

I have to mention again that in order to ensure Nigerian unity and stability in Government, the Prime Minister should recommend that the Western House of Assembly be dissolved now in order to restore popular Government in that Region and thereby establish a stable and good Government.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi): I doubt, Sir, if the Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) is relevant. The dissolution of the Western House of Assembly has nothing to do with the fiscal policy of the Federal Government.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order. On the 26th, Mr Ogbalu spoke for thirteen minutes; to-night he has spoken for another thirteen minutes altogether making twenty-six minutes. Under Standing Order 22, he is entitled to speak for thirty minutes and at the resumption of business to-night, he has only got four minutes to go.

*Sitting suspended : 6 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 9.00 p.m.*

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu :** I was making an important statement when the Sitting was suspended, and what I said was that it would be a good thing if the Western House of Assembly was now dissolved in order to ensure tranquility and good government in the Region. At present the Government in power is unpopular, highly out of tune with the wishes of the people—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. A. Lana) :** On a point of order, the Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) is raising a very controversial issue. What has the dissolution of the Western House of Assembly got to do with the financial policy of the Federal Government? The hon. Member's speech is very irrelevant and I wish he would desist from that line of argument.

**Mr Speaker :** This is indeed irrelevant.

**Mr Ogbalu :** I will give later on some other reasons for ensuring the unity of this country.

While I agree with the Minister of Finance that the keeping of adequate reserve is imperative for us as a young nation soliciting international confidence, I do not see the wisdom of going beyond the statutory provision of 40 per cent by as much as 15 per cent and 5½ months import value instead of 4 or something just slightly above this. I think we are paying too much for the much cherished dignity and confidence in the Nigerian pound. A little more relaxation will certainly benefit our economy. The Minister should consider seriously yielding ground to at least the demand that is persistently being made that the fiduciary element in our currency should be increased so that more money will be available to the public.

At present, the public believe that the Minister of Finance has imprisoned our money in the vault of the Central Bank. In a country where the velocity of circulation is low, liquidity preference high, I think it is advisable to increase the quantity of money by bringing the fiduciary or trust money within the limits at which the Minister can control inflation.

At present, there is no sign of hoarding, speculation on commodities and excessive consumption by the masses. The high rate of taxation mops up money income and our foreign exchange position can be safeguarded. At least, ours is becoming a planned economy and a substantial proportion of our economic projects and activities are Government controlled. While I agree that physical control may not be in our interest in view of benefits of technological advances and international specialisation of labour, physical control cannot be ruled out altogether. It should be applied wherever possible.

I have to refer to the Cadet Scheme of the Board of Customs and Excise and say that I welcome the employment of graduates who have just left the University. I would like to say that it is necessary that their conditions of service be improved if they are going to be retained. At present, conditions for graduates in the Board of Customs and Excise are really appalling and unless something is done about them, it will be difficult to find young graduates to take up appointment with the Board of Customs and Excise.

I have to congratulate the Chairman of the Nigerian Railway Corporation for the efficient way he has been handling the Corporation. Before he took office the Corporation was suffering from many losses and was doing very badly, but since he took office a lot of efficiency had been engendered and he has been doing his work well.

**Mr Speaker :** Will the hon. Member please wind up.

**Mr Ogbalu :** With regard to some of the allegations made against the Corporation, I am very sorry that a Cabinet Minister had the effrontery of going to the public to advise the dismissal of the Chairman of the Corporation; a piece of advice which if need be, he ought to have given to the Cabinet. It is really a shame, for instead of advising that the Chairman be sacked, the Minister should himself have been sacked—

**Mr S. A. Lana :** The Member for Awka North is very irrelevant. If he wants to attack a Cabinet Minister and make politics out of it he should go outside this honourable House and do it.

**Mr Ogbalu:** My argument is that the Minister should have given the advice to the Prime Minister and not to go to the public and shout. That is the point I am making.

**Mr Speaker:** The hon. Member has exhausted his time.

**Mr D. D. Dimka (Angas):** I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill.

In doing so, I would like to say that this honourable House ought to congratulate the Federal Government and the Minister of Finance in particular for the way he has handled the finances of this great country. Reading through the Budget Speech, one would see that there are surpluses in the Recurrent expenditure of the Government and the statutory corporations. Our Central Bank is also doing a very good job and our domestic borrowing is good. The Federal Government is doing commendable work.

Whenever one begins a new project one is bound to meet with obstacles. I am glad to say that our set-backs are not many and we have a bright future for our Six-Year Development Programme. The First Progress Report on the Six-Year Development Plan is a useful document and I am appealing to the Minister of Economic Development to circulate copies to Members of all the Regional Houses. Similarly, Members of this honourable House would like to have copies of the Development Plan of the Regional Governments. I say this because I feel that we have a collective responsibility in this respect and may I repeat that copies of the Regional Plans should be made available to hon. Members.

We know we have many problems but we are determined to tackle them. We must congratulate ourselves for the loans locally raised. We should also be grateful to those countries which have given us loans and aid, but may I warn that we must not do anything to jeopardise the inflow of foreign capital into this country.

We have various means of collecting revenue. One of them is the sale of premium bonds, but these premium bonds do not have enough publicity. I will appeal to the Minister of Finance to give them more publicity in newspapers, cinema houses, *et cetera*.

The move to set up the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company is very welcome. In this case also more publicity will be needed when we begin to use the new bank notes. I remember what the people of the rural areas suffered when the new coins were introduced. Many people in the villages did not know when these new coins were to be introduced, and so many of them encountered all sorts of difficulties when they had to take the old coins to the banks or such other places where the old coins could be changed for the new ones. In fact many of them did not even know where to take the old coins or what was to happen to them. The Ministries should help the poor villagers to understand when the time comes for a change.

When we collect some money from the public it is only right that the amenities derived from money so collected should be shared evenly among the people. May I refer to the Ministry of Health as an example of a Ministry which after collecting money from the public has failed to distribute amenities derived from that money evenly among the people. It seems that the whole or nearly the whole expenditure on health is being spent on Lagos all the time. I say this without prejudice to Lagosians.

From the Development Programme Report we find, for example, improvements to be carried out in the Lagos General Hospital, Health Centres to be built in Lagos, there is an Island Maternity Hospital in Lagos, there is also a Nurses' Hostel in Lagos, and also in Lagos is the University Teaching Hospital. The same thing applies to Town and Country Planning Programme. Though we call this *Town and Country Planning* we find that the money allocated for the development of our towns and country is spent in one town only. To the man in the rural area, to the man living in the village no Federal Government exists. Money is to be spent on building Health Centres in Lagos. Such centres should not be built in Lagos alone, but should also be built in all the Regional capitals—Benin, Ibadan, Enugu and Kaduna. If this is done it will give the Regional Governments the opportunity to build more hospitals in the rural areas.

We have often said on the Floor of this House that industries should be spread all over the country instead of concentrating these industries in only a few capital towns. We speak of

unemployment in the country generally and believe that the establishment of industries can serve as a means of employment to the many now unemployed. It is therefore only reasonable that new industries should be spread throughout the country. Also we observe that there is a lot of congestion in Lagos and already the Government is spending a lot of money to ease this congestion. Yet on the other hand the Government continues to set up new industries in Lagos thus making for more concentration of industries in Lagos.

There is no doubt that as long as more industries are set up in Lagos the city will ever remain congested because people will continue to rush into towns where they can find employment. Industries, when established, should aim at saving the nation and not ruining it. When the prices of locally manufactured goods exceed those of imported ones then certainly we are not making progress. This is an issue which directly or indirectly affects every one of us. The Ministry of Finance should explore all the facts connected with this issue.

It is quite a good thing to establish new industries but we must remember the history of Europe when she started establishing industries. Farmers abandoned their farms and went to live in the industrial towns. It soon followed that only a few people were left in the rural areas to produce food for the many living in the industrial towns. Within a short time food became scarce and the cost of living rose high. In view of this fact I think it is proper for the Federal Government to give financial assistance to the Regional Governments to employ more of our primary school leavers on farm settlements.

Members from all sides of the House have appealed to the Government to establish her own insurance company. The Government, however, has said *no* to this demand when in fact she has stated on pages 11, 12 and 21 of the Development Programme Report that she would establish a National Insurance Company costing about £1 million. Is the Government then disagreeing with the Progress Report? Members are justified in calling on the Government to establish her own insurance company to promote trade and industry in this country. The foreign insurance companies that are operating here to-day are sucking money out of our country. This they will continue to do un-

less we do something. Why should the Government let them go away with all our money?

The question of unity is a very important matter and cannot be ruled out of any discussion in this country. If peace is shattered in this country no foreign investor will come to our aid.

Quite honestly, Sir, I wish to congratulate the N.C.N.C. as a party for dissociating itself from the statement made by a leading member of that party sometime ago. We know that the N.C.N.C. did this, not because it feared anything, but because we in the Federal Parliament want to show to the Regional Governments and to everybody that we are united and that statements such as this cannot help the unity of this country.

It is however regrettable that at a time when we are advocating unity in this country, at a time when we want to show the Regional Governments that we are united in the Federal Parliament, at a time when we should guard our tongues and at a time when we should use every tact to promote peace and unity in this country, this Minister has thought it fit to go out of this House, leaving his duties behind, and to make such a destructive statement.

We of the N.P.C. are always reluctant to challenge such statements because we like unity. We belong to a great party and act like great men. I would therefore appeal to the Prime Minister that when in future he wants to select his Ministers he should select those who are mature. For how can the immature nurture the immature?

Mr Speaker, we need Ministers who are mature and I beg to support.

**Mr A. A. Ajibola** (Egbado South): In making my own contribution to this debate I feel that for a young country like Nigeria it is no use going to places like Great Britain or the United States of America or to Russia to gain experience as to what can help us plan objectively the financial policy of our country. Last year I was lucky to be a member of a delegation to Malaysia, and I feel that a study of what is going on in that country can be of great help to this country also. Malaysia has just become independent some six years ago and we were greatly impressed by what we saw of the financial policy of the government of that country. It was a lucky occurrence that of the members of the delegation there were

[MR AJIBOLA]

two Federal Ministers and some others were representatives of the Regional Governments. From the experience which we gained in that country after spending about 27 days, we must confess that that country is making a very rapid progress which we in this country should emulate.

In Malaysia there are three different nationalities. They have the Chinese, the Malays and the Indians. But what struck us as most pleasant was that these people, though of three different origins, live very happily together. They are different in colour. The Indians are much like ourselves and the Malays are a bit different in colour from the Chinese. Nevertheless, they all live very happily together. We toured very widely through that country and we were highly impressed by the rubber plantations which we saw.

That country, as I have already said, is making rapid progress and it will be interesting if some of our Ministers from this country can go to that country to learn a bit about how a developing country can make rapid progress.

On our way back we stopped at Cairo and were again impressed by the economic policy of that country.

**An hon. Member :** Would that be a socialist or a communist economic policy ?

**Mr Ajibola :** I am talking about the economic policy of this country. I do not know what is meant by socialism or communism. The two words have different meanings with different people.

Immediately we got to Cairo we were met by members of our Embassy, and one of them told us that no cigarettes or any other article manufactured abroad could be taken into Egypt by people who were resident there. Everything which the country needs is provided for within the country itself, and thereby there is employment for almost all the population in that country.

**Mr E. C. Akwiwu (Orlu South East) :** I do not think that the Member for Egbado South (*Mr Ajibola*) is aware of the complaint by the Indian Government that their girls are being sold into slavery in Egypt.

**Mr Ajibola :** I am not aware.

The point which I am making is that we need the experience of other countries which are just

developing or are a bit higher than we are in order that we may develop properly. Too often our Ministers go to England or America to learn from them. Those countries have been so advanced that we cannot gain much from them. But with other countries that are just developing or a bit higher than we are, if we go to learn from them, we shall get something that will help us in this country.

So far we have a lot of problems in this country that we cannot solve ourselves, and we feel that those that could help us to solve our problems are not the great nations of the world.

Now, during the time that we were touring in Malaysia we learned a lot about their housing schemes for workers—

**An hon. Member :** What did the Member for Egbado South learn from Malaysia ?

**Mr Ajibola :** As a Member has asked that question, I wish to state that I have a booklet with me here—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr Akubakar Isandu) :** On a point of order, I can see that the Member for Egbado South is not prepared to say anything substantial. He started by telling this honourable House the colour of the people in Malaysia. We want him to speak about the financial policy of this country, please.

**Mr Ajibola :** As I was saying, I want to say something about the housing policy of that country. About a week ago there was a Motion about building houses for our workers, and the Minister got up to tell this honourable House the plans which they had for the workers of this country. But when one sees what is going on in some other countries one will agree that the policy of this country on that particular question is not enough. I was not impressed when he was reading that policy on that day.

I have with me here out of the publications given to us during the time when we were there a publication about the policy of the Government of that country for providing houses for their workers, and according to this publication, the title of which is *Democratic Socialism in Action, June 1959 to April 1963*, the Government is building about 10,000 flats per month. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I shall read it out.

House of Representatives Debates

1269

[Appropriation (1964-65)

31 MARCH 1964

Bill : Second Reading]

1270

*At present 10,000 Units are under construction, and more contracts are being let out every month. At the current rate of building one flat is being completed in every 45 minutes.*

This is an incredible rate, yet perfectly true. One could confirm this from the Minister of Internal Affairs (*Alhaji Shehu Shagari*), and the Minister of Transport (*Mr Raymond Njoku*), because they, too, went along with us, and they saw all these things that were happening over there. Anybody can see one or two of the picture of the kind of houses that are being built for these people over there.

When we came back and saw what we were doing here we knew that we were not doing enough to help the people of this country.

Turning again to the problems facing us in the Western Region, I have this to say. What is happening in the Western Region affects the whole country. It affects the economic conditions of this country. What is happening in the East will affect the whole country just as what will happen in the North will affect the whole country. To-day, there is no peace in the Western Region. Everybody knows that.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): On a point of order, when lawyers have nothing to say it is not fair for them to come here and give the people an inaccurate state of things. There is perfect peace in the Western Region.

**Mr Speaker**: Lawyers are not *Shakey-shakey* lawyers.

**Mr Ajibola**: I am saying that there is no peace to-day in the Western Region, and everybody knows that. The Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) is just deceiving himself by saying that there is peace in the Western Region. It is the duty of the Prime Minister to see to the peace and good government of the whole of the Federation. What is happening to-day in the Western Region is that the Federal Government, especially the Prime Minister, is giving some support to the Premier of the Western Region. (*Interruptions.*)

**Mr Speaker**: Order! I would not like that to develop. We do not know exactly what the Member for Egbado South means by that. Of course, the Prime Minister is helping all Premiers, but I would not like to take any other line.

**Mr Ajibola**: What I mean is this. It is the duty of the Prime Minister to advise the Premier of the Western Region to order an election in the Western Region. It is for him to advise the Premier of the Western Region, because it is known to everybody in this country that the Government in the Western Region is not popular.

**Mr S. A. Lana**: If the Member for Egbado South has nothing more to contribute to this debate I think he had better sit down. The election in the Western Region has nothing to do with the financial policy of this country. In fact, it differs from the main argument on the Budget Speech.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice** (Mr R. B. K. Okafor): On a point of information, my hon. Friend, (*Mr Lana*), is correct, because he has the same tribal marks as Chief Akintola.

**Mr Lana**: I am proud of it.

**Mr Ajibola**: I said that there was no peace in the Western Region to-day, and as a result of that there had been mass unemployment, especially in the Western Region. Also, as a result of this disability in the Western Region many foreign firms are backing out of the country. We all know that the U.A.C. has almost gone out of the Region.

**Mr Lana**: On a point of order, this hon. Member is misinforming the House. No foreign firm is packing away from the Western Region. He is making a statement which will harm the prestige of the Western Region. As I said earlier, if he has nothing more to contribute he had better sit down.

**Mr Speaker**: I think political grudge should not be turned into a disadvantage for this country. If the hon. Member is serious then, it is unfortunate, but as I can see he is not serious about it.

**Mr Ajibola**: A member of the N.C.N.C. made a gesture last week about the release of political prisoners and especially the release of our great leader Chief Obafemi Awolowo. I would like the Federal Government to take this matter seriously.



[MR AJIBOLA]

Over the week end, I was very happy to learn again that all the political parties in the Mid-West have sat again to consider this question about the release of political prisoners. Until these political prisoners are released, the financial standing of this country will not be steady.

The treatment being given to political opponents in this country is something that worries other parts of the world and until there is a change in the policy of the Government there can be no peace.

**Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice** (Mr R. B. K. Okafor) : On a point of order, I want to inform the Speaker that there is a stranger in this House.

**Mr Speaker** : I do not see any stranger here.

**Mr Ajibola** : I think hon. Member will notice that we have had some changes in the House and if these new changes could be carried outside the House by the Federal Government in releasing political prisoners—

**Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power** (Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika) : On a point of order, I think that a matter which is pending in court cannot be debated in this House. The case comes up either this month or next month and there is no use discussing it here.

**Mr Speaker** : It is indeed out of order to discuss matters pending in court but I have only given the hon. Member sometime for discussion, realising that if certain ideas can find an avenue for expression, the result might help to reduce speculations in some other quarters. I think it is time however that we informed the hon. Member to realise that he is out of order.

**Mr Ajibola** : In conclusion, it will be in the best interest of this country as a whole and in the best interest of the Western Region in particular if that Government is dissolved and a new election takes place as soon as possible. The farmers of the Western Region are not enjoying the fruits of their labour.

**Mr Speaker** : If the hon. Members will only depart from the financial policy of the Western Region and discuss the financial policy of the Federal Government, that will be in order.

**Alhaji Daura** (Maska) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill, ably presented to the House by the

Minister of Finance. The Budget speech is foresighted and comprehensive. It seeks to cater for the welfare of the majority of our people and to fulfil our aspiration in the ultimate task of affording better living condition for all.

The context of the speech rightly reflects Nigeria's rapid growth both politically and economically. The untiring efforts of the Federal Government under the inspiring leadership of the Prime Minister in discharging their duty to the state are both exemplary and commendable. These efforts, in addition to raising our national prestige, have projected our personality abroad in its true perspective. As a result, other African Nations are looking up to us for leadership which we are now discharging in a most creditable manner.

I must say that however comprehensive this Budget may be it will mean nothing but strife if our national unity is not a reality. It is most unfortunate that in this crucial time of our development, when all hands should be on deck, a minor issue should be so inflated as to explode the very foundations upon which this great nation is built. Surely we had, in the past, got over more difficult problems than this. Why should we then allow such a minor issue to destroy that which we have relentlessly laboured to build.

I observe during the course of the debate, that many hon. Members from the East, expressed fear of domination by the North. They made this allegation against the North.

I want to assure them that the North has no desire to dominate anybody. The point is that somebody wants to dominate the North and is faced with frustration and disgust. We in the North not only believe in the principle of peaceful co-existence but exercise it in our day to day deliberations.

My humble advice is, for God's sake, leave the North alone. So did the white imperialist find it, so did he leave it and so must it remain intact.

It is upon the people of the North to choose their own destiny, it is not for someone from outside to dictate the course which the North should follow. Let us not in our restless and selfish pursuit allow this nation to be left in the cold hands of turbulence and chaos which might result in great disaster and catastrophe.

House of Representatives Debates

1273

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

31 MARCH 1964

Bill : Second Reading]

1274

Our unity is our strength and is indeed our very existence as a nation. Let no one, therefore, play with our unity. In the interest of the unity of this country, I would call upon all the Ibos to dissolve the so-called Ibo Union which is not in the best interest of the unity of Nigeria.

**Mr D. C. Ahamefula** (Okigwi South West) : I think it is arrogant for the hon. Member to ask us to dissolve the Ibo Union.

**Mr Speaker** : Will the hon. Member please depart from his attacks on the Ibos.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : In as much as I appreciate your ruling, Mr Speaker, in asking the Member for Maska (*Alhaji Daura*) to desist from his attacks on the Ibos, I would also ask the Member for Okigwi South East (*Mr Ahamefula*) to withdraw his statement that Alhaji Daura is arrogant. It is a very unparliamentary language.

**Mr Speaker** : I think first of all that I must ask you to desist from raising "points of disorder" but only raise points of order.

**Alhaji Daura** : Another important point I want to touch upon is to express my complete disagreement with an hon. Member on the N.C.N.C. Bench who is calling for the release of Chief Obafemi Awolowo. This is not in the interest of the nation for a person who has committed such a big crime to be set free. In other countries, such crimes are punishable by death. To release him will mean bringing more trouble into the country.

Let us, therefore, in brotherly strength join hands to work honestly and sincerely for the happiness and prosperity of our people and the ultimate greatness of our great country, Nigeria.

Turning to the Budget Speech, we have attained our political independence and we are now trying desperately to achieve economic independence. To achieve our economic independence, the following requisite factors must be put into full force :—

- (1) Mobilisation of resources—mineral, agricultural and manpower.
- (2) Proper and well directed planning.
- (3) The necessity of executing the plan by concerted efforts.

Fortunately, Nigeria has been graciously destined with a great variety of mineral and agricultural resources in prodigious quantity.

The question now is on how to exploit these resources. No amount of money allocated to the improvement of our agricultural resources may be deemed too much.

Agriculture as we all know, is the basis of our economy. By improving our agricultural resources, we could kill two or three birds with one stone. By increasing the productivity of the soil, we can produce sufficient quantity of cash crop to feed our industries and to sell abroad.

More industries should be established wherever conditions are favourable in the rural areas. For instance, in my area, Katsina, cotton, groundnuts and hides and skins, are produced in large quantities. Electricity, which is its basic factor, is also available there. It will only be most appropriate to establish industries in connection with hides and skins, cotton or groundnuts in this area.

Coming to the establishment of industries, fishing industry can be established successfully in many places. For instance, a very successful fishing industry can be established in the Chad area. In my area too, that is in Funtua, there is well-known Maska town where a fish hatchery exists and it will be well that a fishing industry is established there.

I have one disappointing point about trade to bring forward in the hope that the Government will do all within its power to help the poor traders. I understand that the sale of Northern Cattle to Ghana had been stopped and that instead Ghana has made arrangements with Somalia to get cattle from there.

I think it devolves on the Minister of Commerce and Industry to pursue all possible channels to get a better market for Northern cattle. If a good market is not available, I would advise the Government to set up a meat canning industry in the North.

**Mr Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : On a point of order, there is a stranger in this House.

**Mr Speaker** : Maybe you are the stranger this evening.

**Alhaji Daura** : Another point that I would like to touch upon is the question of the importation of second-hand clothing which, in my opinion, is a disgrace to this nation. I call on the Government to abolish it completely.

[ALHAJI DAURA]

The Government should also be congratulated for introducing this new change into this country and that is the security printing and minting of our coins here in Nigeria. But I should like to make the following comments. In minting our coins greatest care must be taken and all skills must be used to see that the coins so minted cannot be counterfeited by the Ijebus and the other people. I find that almost every coin that is currently in circulation is being conterfeited.

**Mr Ogunsanya :** By whom ?

**Alhaji Daura :** Well, it may be by the Ijebus and other people.

Also, when establishing new industries in Nigeria, care must be taken to see that very skilled people are employed in making the new articles, otherwise we will find that the quality of the articles that we manufacture in this country is inferior to the ones imported, and as a result, people will be inclined to buy the imported articles and leave the indigenous ones.

I have found that the quality of articles manufactured in this country is not good enough. For instance, the quality of matches that are manufactured in this country is very poor. One has to strike two or three sticks before one can light a cigarette, while with the imported matches, one can strike a match and light more than three cigarettes and the light will still be on.

I come now to the question of roads. I am very pleased to note that the Federal Government has the intention of widening our roads to a width of twenty-four feet. I congratulate the Government and the Minister of Works for that, but one road that I should like to be given priority is the Kaduna to Zaria road. This is one of the roads in this country that takes the heaviest traffic.

I would advise the Government also that the present methods it employs in constructing roads are not very good. As a result, we find that colossal sums of money are being spent every year on repairing old roads whereas this money should have been used to do new constructional work.

I should also like to call on the Federal Government to take over more roads from the Regional Governments so as to relieve them from the burden of maintaining too many roads.

As an alternative to Trunk 'A' Roads, I would suggest that the Federal Government takes over the road from Mondo, via Funtua, Yashi, Kano to Katsina and then to parts of Sokoto.

On telecommunications, I have these observations to make. The Government has declared its intention of extending telecommunication services to the neighbouring African countries. I would suggest that the first countries to be linked with Nigeria should be Niger, Chad, Dahomey, Togo, Cameroun and Ghana with whom we have direct trade relations.

I would also like to call the attention of the Federal Minister of Communications to this very important question of helping the people of Katsina. Katsina with a population of more than two million persons is served by only two Post Offices—one in Katsina and the other in Funtua—with only a Sub-Post Office at Daura. One can imagine a situation where more than two million persons are served by only two Post Offices. I think this is very unfair and the Government should give consideration to providing more post offices, at least in the following places : Malumfashi, Musawa, Kankia, Dutsinma, Mashi Jibia, and Mani. These should be supplemented by ten or more postal agencies.

It is my opinion that the Federal Government, or in particular the Minister of Communications, thinks that the people of Katsina are illiterates. That is why he provides only so few postal facilities for so many people. We are informing the Minister that Katsina, by the efforts of the Regional Government and the Local Authority there, has done its best in educating the people. A great number of people are now educated and are very anxious and enthusiastic to contact their relatives living in other towns by writing letters to them.

By providing these postal facilities in these rural areas it might help to educate the people to make the savings required. By this means more money can be collected for the development of this country.

The telephone system for Katsina, which has been in operation since the 1920's is still the same. I think it is high time now that this was changed to the modern automatic dialing system. This will reduce congestion and will also reduce the delays caused by telephone attendants.

House of Representatives Debates

1277

[Appropriation (1964-65)

31 MARCH 1964

Bill : Second Reading]

1278

These attendants are not doing their very best. Undue delays are caused by these people. There are at times when you would ring and take up the telephone receiver only to hear the sound of the radio which they are listening to. They will not attend to you until they have finished with the radio. This is very unsatisfactory and I ask the Minister to see to it that this situation is improved.

Now I come to geological survey. The Federal Government has stated her intention to press forward with geological survey, and I welcome this proposal. The survey should be pursued further to ascertain the extent of the mineral deposits and the feasibility of their exploitation. There are, for instance, large deposits lying waste while thousands of people have nothing to do. All channels of exploiting these mineral resources should be pursued to the full so as to give employment to the thousands of people and also to give them better living conditions.

I now come to the city of Lagos. I noted with great concern the colossal sums of money that are being spent on Lagos year after year. Large sums are spent on improvements, slum clearing, land reclamation, *et cetera*. Above all, I have noted that an eight million pound bridge is to be provided for the people of Lagos. Why should the Government concentrate all her effort in Lagos? The Government is not the Government of Lagos but the Government of the Federation of Nigeria. The people of Lagos have been well served. Let the rural areas have their share.

**Mr Speaker :** One minute to wind up.

**Alhaji Daura :** I now come to the question of customs. I find that the Federal Minister of Finance has employed some of our officials to go and cause trouble and havoc in the rural areas. The customs officials stationed at the border posts at Jibia, Kongolo and Zango are causing havoc to the general public.

The object of these posts, if I am not mistaken, is to check smugglers and to assess duty on articles that are being brought into this country. But we find that articles that are being brought into the country are taxed twice, thrice or even four times.

When articles are being brought from the Niger Republic into Nigeria, duty is levied and paid on them. When they proceed into Nigeria,

let us say with a carton of matches or a package of sugar, duty is paid on them on the border. Then when these articles are taken to the market to be sold, the officials go to the market to ask for the dealer's receipt. It may be that the dealer did not bring it into the country.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): The fact of the matter is that if you pay a duty you are given a receipt. When you are challenged by the customs officials, all that you have to do is to produce your receipt.

**Alhaji Daura :** A trader can sell his articles to another trader and yet when he goes to sell it in the market he will be caught by these customs officials who demand from him another duty. I ask the Minister to see to this. I have here some exhibits to show. Just for a packet of sugar and a box of matches one was fined forty pounds. If this is the policy of this Government, I will be obliged to call for another new government, because a government is supposed to bring happiness and prosperity to her people, not to rob them of their belongings.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I want the Member for Maska (*Alhaji Daura*) to withdraw that statement.

**Mr Speaker :** The Gentleman speaking has exhausted his time.

**Chief M. W. Ubani** (Aba Central): It is a pleasure for me to contribute to this debate on the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill. It is with a great sense of responsibility and deep feeling that I have to say that all we need to say in this period must centre on things that will make for the stability, peace and unity of this nation. This is the fifth Budget Session since this House came into being, and all those charged with the responsibility of piloting the ship of state have acquitted themselves creditably and discharged their duties honourably.

During this period Nigeria has made some progress in the economic, social and political fields, and hon. Members will rejoice and take pride in the knowledge that during their tenure as Members of Parliament this country won her independence and achieved her cherished desire of becoming a Republic, with her Head of State no longer owing allegiance to a monarch four thousand miles away.

[CHIEF UBANI]

Throughout, Members of this House have moved and respected each other like friends and brothers from the same family which, of course, they are, being citizens of one nation. Naturally, this spirit of brotherhood and oneness has been occasionally interrupted by certain elements whose stock-in-trade is to cause trouble, confusion and misunderstanding. I hope to expatiate on this point later.

Nigeria is a great country with great potentialities, and with proper handling and care she can rise to any height in the comity of nations. Already she has begun to earn abundant goodwill among the countries of the world, and that will be much more strengthened if she continues to respect the principle of co-existence among the different sections of the community, irrespective of clan, tribe or political belief. Our footsteps and aspirations have been well guarded in the past and we hope the Government will continue to be our guide in this respect.

A successful execution of the Six-Year Development Plan cannot be achieved unless there is unity and common understanding among the different sections (call it tribes or ethnic groups, if you like) of this country. The outlook of everyone must be reorientated to have a national focus. If this country must give leadership to the peoples of Africa, its leaders must be prepared to think in terms of real unity, not merely paying lip service on the pages of a newspaper or pamphlet. Some of these so-called unity pronouncements have nurtured seeds of disunity and have aggravated more ill-feelings and done more harm than good in recent times.

Let the politicians search their hearts and remember that they are the present custodians of political hegemony of this country. Let them remember that political power is for a time and that it does not last for ever in the hands of one man. Why quarrel and instigate people on something which is not anyone's personal property? Let the leaders of this country and their political parties exercise some restraint in their utterances. Let the leaders take a firm stand in the good name of the land of their birth—Nigeria—and resolve against making statements which are capable of causing disaffection and breeding ill-feelings, chaos and disorder. For instance, such a statement as: "I will rule you for ever whether you like it or not" is uncharitable and reckless to be made in a

democratic society like Nigeria. It is just like talking to a slave. Such open statements as: "I will dismiss you from your job and confiscate your property because you happen to belong to a particular tribe or region"—

**Mr Speaker:** Surely this is not fiscal policy which we are dealing with.

**Chief Ubani:** The use of inciting cartoons and campaign —

**Mr Speaker:** I cannot allow any speeches that will provoke and precipitate ill-feelings.

**Chief Ubani:** It is my view that if we must succeed, we must really take a warning from a House like ours. For this reason everyone should stand up here and declare that he will be restrained in his utterances, and be able to support the view that the unity of the country must be first and foremost.

I will be failing in my conviction if I do not have a word for the newspapers which are the moulders of public opinion. As the fourth estate of the realm they have a great duty to perform. Freedom and liberty of the press is indispensable in any democratic society, but this freedom is not a licence for the newspapers to publish anything that comes their way. A wise and honest editor will do all that lies within his power to ensure that the unity of his country is preserved; he must be able to pick and choose his manuscript and whatever should be his editorial leader. This is very, very necessary, particularly at this period when feelings on certain controversial issues in the country are running high. A wise editor will not allow the commercial interest of his newspaper to override the interest of his own country. There must be tolerance, greater understanding and a feeling of belonging between an editor and the reading public.

On the question of good neighbourliness, it concerns all the leaders, the politicians and their followers, the businessmen, the press, the civil servants and even the labourers in the plantations. All I am concerned with is that the press should not allow itself to be influenced by the whims and caprices of politicians.

There is another cankerworm which is plaguing the good work which the Six-Year Development Plan is out to achieve, and unless it is checked, it is bound to affect the economic stability of the country in one way or the other. In this connection, I have in mind what is

House of Representatives Debates

1281

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

31 MARCH 1964

Bill : Second Reading]

1282

happening in one of the Regions of the Republic. It does affect the Republic. It is the instability of the Western Nigeria Government. For nearly two years, it has been nothing but a club of certain individuals who are power-mongers—

**Mr Speaker :** This is out of order. Speak on the fiscal policy of the Federal Government, please.

**An hon. Member :** The Member for Aba Central (*Chief Ubani*) should sit down.

**Chief Ubani :** It is my duty as an elderly man to advise the House. I am just wondering how the Members of the Federal House can sit down and look on while one section of the Republic is in danger which will ultimately affect the proper running of the country.

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South) : On a point of order, I think it is not correct for the Member for Aba Central (*Chief Ubani*) to come here and say that there is disorder in the Western Region. Recently, the N.C.N.C. was in coalition with the Western Government. Simply because they are not participating in the Government to-day they say that there is no order in the Western Region.

**Chief Ubani :** I cannot really worry about what my hon. Friend is saying because he knows too well that in a Region where certain men have really changed the Government for over four times within a short time, we must have something to say about it.

**Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** (Oshun South East) : On a point of order, it is high time that restraint was observed about the Western Region. The people there can manage their affairs. There is no disorderliness in the Western Region. What is the business of the Member for Aba Central (*Chief Ubani*) with the Western Region? He should withdraw all these statements and leave the Western Region alone.

**Chief Ubani :** Of course, it is natural that as soon as you touch on something in which somebody's hands are nasty and black, he will always get irritated.

**Mr S. A. Babatunde** (Ilorin Central) : On a point of explanation, I think we are all gentlemen, apart from being honourable Members, and when the Speaker says that something should not be done, it is good for us as gentlemen and not school boys to desist from it.

If the N.C.N.C. wanted a coalition with the A.G. and they could not get it through, that is not our fault. (*Laughter*).

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : On a point of order, what would be a laughing thing in bedlam and for montleys will not be suitable for this House, if the hon. Member understands that language.

**Several hon. Members :** He does not.

**Chief Ubani :** What I was saying has a strong relationship with the stability and the running of the Government of this country and all that we say here, no matter how beautiful they may be, if there is no unity and if there is no understanding among the people—

**Mr Speaker :** The Member for Oshun South East (*Mr Ogunkanmi*) should maintain silence.

**Chief Ubani :** I am sure hon. Members on both sides of the House will agree with me that but for the Prime Minister in the person of Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, certainly all that we are saying here would have seen everybody packing and running away from his seat. Therefore, it is necessary that we must advise ourselves and that we must prove all that we have heard. We have been advised and we have been warned and we should re-emphasize any point that will make for stability in the Government of this nation. A politician has a right to change from one political party to another, but the danger lies in politicians allowing themselves to be bought like commercial commodities—

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : The hon. Member is irrelevant. If he is not discussing the fiscal policy of the Government he should be asked to sit down.

**Mr Speaker :** Order. The hon. Member has spoken for more than 15 minutes on matters that do not relate to the Appropriation Bill. I do expect that he has something to contribute to the Appropriation Bill.

**Chief Ubani :** I thank you, Mr Speaker. On the fiscal aspect of the Government, I have some few observations to make. The Federal Government has a fiscal policy which appears to be rather spasmodic. Each Ministry seems to try to propagate its own policy or theory as it thinks fit. Co-ordination in this respect

[CHIEF UBANI]

is ineffective and it hits hard on the economic and financial policy of the Government. Let the Minister of Economic Planning take a firm stand in this matter of co-ordination in order to produce a more realistic economic stability.

The Government must find a formula with which to meet this burning question of increase of prices on imported goods and price control. The Minister of Finance the other day made a startling statement when he said that it was not the intention of the Government to go into the question of price control. But during the colonial regime, price control was in operation. It is surprising to hear that the indigenous Government of the people cannot do anything to help the poor peasants in the rural areas in their complaint against this increase in prices. Everywhere in the rural areas since our independence, people complain of scarcity of money. There is no money with which to meet their various obligations, both national and domestic. Some find it difficult to get money with which to pay the school fees of their children. Any increase in tariff is automatically transferred to the common people who buy from the same markets as the well-to-do. Let the Government engage the services of expert economists to give this matter a special study with a view to introducing a measure of amelioration to save the suffering peasants.

Before the discovery of mineral oils in the country in commercial quantities, the economy of this country depended, upon staple cash crops such as palm produce, cocoa, groundnuts and cotton. The Government through the efforts of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is to be congratulated for establishing unions and trade associations for cocoa, groundnuts and cotton with other nations that produce the same material.

If these associations are well organised, this will certainly raise the products of Nigeria to compete with the products of the other parts of the world in international markets ; but one wonders why nothing has been done to form an association with other parts of the world that produce palm produce such as palm oil, palm kernels and such products.

These points appear to be relegated to the background and the people ask the question : when will it be possible for the Government to

introduce the same measures introduced in the question of cocoa, groundnuts and cotton for there is a section of the Federation which really builds its own bulwark of economy on the products of the palm tree.

I regard the discovery of mineral oil in commercial quantity as a blessing to Nigeria and I join previous speakers who advocated that it was time the fifty-fifty *per cent* agreement with the prospecting companies were reviewed in the light of developments. Also the rate of compensation paid to the landlords by the prospecting companies is too mean and discouraging.

Recently, there was the case of an old man, Chief Ogbonna Uruakpa of Aba in my own constituency whose land was valued at about £3,000 or more. This area of land had been cut into pieces by the Shell-BP in their attempt to construct pipe lines through this land. When the land was to be leased to another body it was found to have been destroyed, and the amount paid was a paltry compensation of thirty shillings per acre.

Petitions and representations have been made to the legal land department without a redress and without even the courtesy of a reply. I am calling on the Minister of Mines and Power to check upon this complaint as such treatments which are many in the constituency do not inspire respect and confidence. Let not the prospecting companies and the Government flourish at the expense of the original land owners.

I will now speak on the need to expand the Nigeria Police Force. In his speech to the House, the President of the Republic stressed the importance of expanding the Nigeria Police Force. With your permission, I quote :

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

I seize this opportunity to express my admiration for the Nigeria Police Force which has been described as one of the best in the world. The work of the Force is immense in the matter of preservation of law and order. The matter of internal security in this country rests squarely upon the efficiency, trust and the confidence shown in the Force.

*House of Representatives Debates*

1285

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

31 MARCH 1964

Bill : *Second Reading*]

1286

Our internal security department is very much needed in the execution of the Six-Year Development Programme.

I seize this opportunity to congratulate the retiring Inspector-General of Police, Mr J. E. Hodge who has done a lot over a period of twenty-eight years to improve the status of the Nigeria Police

I also congratulate his successor Mr L. O. Edet for the magnificent work he did during the Congo crisis and I wish him the very best of luck in handling the great work which he is really expected to do. I am confident he will succeed.

While it is desirable to expand the Nigeria Police Force, it is also necessary to point out the necessity of reviewing the question of height for the new recruits. The height is too rigid at 5ft. 6in. I suggest 5ft. 4in. I quite appreciate the need for tall men and women in the Force, but I am sure that all that is required of a Police Officer is not merely the height.

I am calling upon the Minister responsible for Police Affairs to look into this question of height and get the Inspector-General to review it so as to bring it down to 5ft. 4in. for the boys and 5ft. for the girls. There are many boys and girls who would like to join the force, but who are barred because of the rigid question of height. This should be looked into in view of the growing commitments of the Police and the increase in population.

On the question of creation of more states, I want to say that the principle of federalism is synonymous with the creation of states. Once we talk of the mechanics of federalism, we must be prepared to welcome the creation of more states.

We cannot adopt federalism as a system of government and at the same time refuse to embrace the mechanics of its operation of which the creation of states is a major issue. In fact there would be no lasting unity unless this country is broken up into more states so that no one region is too big to become a bully to the rest of the country.

The creation of the fourth region in Western Nigeria is indeed encouraging. It is a step in the right direction, and all must be prepared to embrace the creation of more states, through-

out the Federation. This is one of the ingredients in support of a stable operation of a federal system of government.

**Mr Speaker :** The reporter cannot catch your speech very well. That may be because the hon. Member is too fast. If you could slow down a bit, perhaps it would be better.

**Mr D. O. Enefola (Igala South) :** On a point of order, I think that when a person like the hon. Gentlemen, a very old and experienced man is speaking, Members should listen in silence.

**Mr Speaker :** This is an unnecessary interruption.

**Chief Ubani :** I was saying that the creation of the Mid-West State is a right step in the right direction. We should congratulate this Government and all its leaders for contributing to the creation of the state. We should give the warning that every section of the Federation must be prepared to break up so that we can really think in terms of creating more states, in order to bring stability to the country.

Before I conclude, I must make some comments on the burning question of unity in the country. Let us all rise to condemn without reservation anything that savours of disunity no matter from what quarters it comes.

The Nigerian nation should be proud and happy particularly because of the work of the best leaders we have in the country in the persons of the President of the Republic, His Excellency Dr Azikiwe, and the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar. They have been able to work together, holding the republic together.

Nobody should do anything that will destroy the examples they have set up. I want to remind every citizen that this is a challenge to us all who believe in the unity of this our great country.

These are great leaders who deserve our commendation, respect and honour. It is also worthwhile to commend all the others in the Regions such as Dr M. I. Okpara, the Premier of Eastern Nigeria and National President of the N.C.N.C. who has stood firm in his policy of one Nigeria.

It is equally important to commend the Premier of Northern Region, Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto, the President of



[CHIEF DAME-OBOH]

are from rural areas. Even the Prime Minister himself comes from Bauchi which is also a rural area. We need to sound the feelings of our people. The Ministers should travel to the hinterland to see these people and know what they feel about the Government and what they need. This is what we are advocating for.

A constituency of about 140,000 people has no postal agency, no sub-post office. The Minister should come to these people and see how they are suffering.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

**M. Wada Nas** (Kankara Kogo) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I would like to make an appeal to the Minister of Information. I would like the Minister to make a thorough check on the staff of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation, particularly those reading the news. There is one lady there who often reads the news. When she reads the news nobody understands what she talks about no matter how attentively one listens or how clear the reception may be. I hope that the Minister will prevent this particular lady from reading the news any longer.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi** (Asaba West) : I rise to support the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill.

I have to congratulate the Federal Government on their efforts to keep this young country in peace through the strict vigilance of the Police and the Army, thus establishing a good reputation for this country, a reputation which is acclaimed all over the world. This good name of the country has enabled investors and industrialists to have hope of safety here realising that Nigeria has a favourable climate for investment of capital.

I will say that the progress so far made in the implementation of the Six-Year Development Programme is not very encouraging. Judging from the Progress Report of the Programme for the past two years, I would say that the pace of the implementation of the Programme is rather very slow. It is said that the first stroke is half the battle.

I will seize this opportunity to thank the Governments of the United States of America, Italy, the United Kingdom and those of some other countries for their generosity towards

this country by helping us both with their money and their manpower, their experts.

Since we have got the Mid-West Region, it should be considered as a separate entity as far as the Six-Year Development Programme is concerned.

From what is happening it is evident that there is scarcity of money in the country, especially in the rural areas. The cause of this is high level of unemployment in the Federation. Millions of school-leavers in this country have nothing to do. There are no technical schools and trade centres where they can learn a trade by means of which they can earn a living. It will be encouraging if more trade centres and technical schools are opened throughout the Federation. Of course, this has to be with the co-operation of the Regional Governments.

I would urge the Government to extend electricity to many growing towns so that industries and factories can be established, and opportunities will thus be created for school leavers to obtain worth-while employment. Most of these school leavers, at present, flock into big towns like Lagos, Port Harcourt and Kaduna, which are already over congested with job seekers. They usually constitute themselves into great burdens to their few working relatives, and hamper them with increasing cost of living, rentage and so on and so forth.

It is in the best interest of Nigeria that more detailed geological survey should be carried out throughout the country. I am convinced that our vast expanse of land contains innumerable mineral resources. For example, we have a large area, which has not yet been exploited, covered with the best lignite in the world. This is in Asaba Division in the Mid-West Region. If iron and steel industry is established there, Nigeria will profit from the immense wealth that will eventually be realised.

The iron ore, which is found in great quantity in Onitsha province, can easily be brought to the lignite mining area in Asaba Division after the bridging of the river Niger, thus providing raw materials for the iron and steel industry that might be established in Asaba Division. Nigeria certainly needs an iron and steel industry for its rapid progress.

It has to be pointed out again that Ozara-Agbor in Asaba Division abounds in great quantities of white and other colours of clay

*House of Representatives Debates*

1301

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

31 MARCH 1964

Bill : *Second Reading*]

1302

chalks. I also understand that salt can be found at Egbudu near Ekuku-Agbor in the same Division, and gold can possibly be found in Agbor area.

If all these minerals could be found in one particular Division in Nigeria, it is quite possible to expect that a nation-wide geological survey will reveal that most of these minerals could also be found in other Divisions. If only half of these minerals were exploited, Nigeria would be the better for it, unemployment would cease to exist, inflow of money and wealth would ensue, and everlasting freedom from want and scarcity would be ensured.

It is said that the protection of human lives is one of the greatest sources of wealth. This brings me to the many fatal accidents happening daily on our roads. One of the causes of such accidents is the narrowness of our roads and bridges. If you drove on one of our roads, say, the new Shagamu-Ijebu Ode-Benin Road, you would find that though this road is quite wide, the bridges are very narrow. I wonder why the Ministry of Works and Surveys has not taken any note of this.

The road should not have been opened for the use of passenger vehicles until the bridges have been made wide enough, possibly 24 feet wide. At present, the bridges are between six and eight feet wide. The road itself is between 26 and 30 feet wide. The bridges should, therefore, be widened to agree with the width of the road. These narrow bridges are death traps to human lives. They should be widened as quickly as possible. In fact, all the bridges along our major roads should be widened.

The Federal Government should, however, be congratulated for widening the bridges on the Agbor-Benin Road, especially the ones in the heart of the busy Boji-Boji Agbor, which I complained about some time ago. The tarred road between Asaba and Benin should be widened to 24 feet, so that it could match other major roads like the Onitsha-Enugu Road or the new Shagamu-Ijebu Ode-Benin Road.

I am calling on the Federal Government to station the Army sub-headquarters in the Mid-West Region. I propose that it should be stationed at Agbor where it used to be during the colonial days.

The strength of the Nigeria Police in the headquarters of the Mid-West Region should

be increased so as to cope with the present increase in police duties in that Region.

I would like the Ministry of Transport to start, as early as possible, the construction of the East-West via Mid-West railway line. The East-West railway line will be another source of revenue to the Federal Government, and the nation.

I want to draw the attention of this House to the fact that now and again, we hear alarming and dangerous news of highway and daylight robbery and terrible burgling of shops and homes of well-to-do people in this country. The hard-earned money of some people and the properties of different companies were made away with by these robbers. Many hard-working people and shop owners of this country live in constant fear of molestation and threat to their lives and properties because of the evil deeds of these robbers. To cite a few of the atrocities they have committed, I would remind hon. Members of the £60,000 robbed from a bank in broad day light on the Sapele-Benin Road, £10,000 robbed from the Post and Telegraphs Department—money which was meant to pay the salaries of Federal Government employees grabbed in the day time in Lagos.

Many passengers travelling in lorries have had their goods and money seized from them at gun point. To stop this evil, it will be better if we amend our Criminal Code to the effect that death sentence or life imprisonment will henceforth be inflicted on any person found guilty twice of highway and daylight robbery and burgling.

The aim of any robber is to get the desired goods or money by all means and at all costs—killing or otherwise. This has happened in many places. In most cases, robbers found guilty many a time, had been given light punishment of few months imprisonment. This is not sufficient to discourage them from further robberies. These robbers, no doubt, are the greatest barriers to our country's progress.

A contributory cause of the wild technique introduced by these robbers in carrying out their deeds is the bad and immoral films being shown in many of our cinema houses. These films usually encourage robbery and burgling, a crime now so rampant in our country to-day.

[Mr EBOIGBODI]

I urge the Cinema Censorship Board to ban throughout the Federation, without second thought, all such films that teach and encourage robbery and burglary.

I beg to support.

**M. Isa Iko (Zuru)** : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation (1964-65) Bill. I have not much to say, but to bring to the notice of the Federal Government, one particular problem affecting my constituency. I know that the life of this Parliament is fast running to an end, nevertheless, I want to say that the post office at Zuru has not been provided with telephone and telegraph services.

It was since 1959 that a modern post office was built in my constituency but up till now nothing has been provided there. Therefore, I appeal to the Federal Government to see that the Minister concerned takes the matter up immediately.

Before I conclude, I should like to know from the Minister concerned when he intends to provide telephone facilities there because Zuru is a Divisional Headquarters.

I beg to support.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East)** : I rise to support wholeheartedly the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill of the National Budget. The Minister's naming of his Budgets has always been appropriate. It is a credit of great value that these names and the substance of the Budgets have remained secret all along. Everybody is informed of the name and the substance when the Budget is read by the Minister.

Credit must also be given to the staff of the Ministry of Finance for their loyalty in keeping whatever secret they come across. What impressed me most is the portion on national character. Here I quote :

*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, . . . . .*

*Which can be ascertained* there can never be over emphasised because that is what makes the national character and that is one of the things

that I will speak on later in my speech. Sir, it is necessary for every Nigerian to look fully into this and bring it to consciousness all the time.

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South)** : Much as I enjoy the Chief's speech, I would like the Minister of Education, now that he is here, to acquire the hon. Gentleman's car and his robes for the Department of Antiquity !

**The Deputy Speaker** : I think that should be left for the Committee Stage.

**Chief Oronsaye** : If the Minister of Education wants any monuments I can give him several.

It is as I was saying only in this way that economic nationalism can be whipped up with virility. National character can be ascertained when we put one and one together to make two.

Take any particular person and watch. The things that we should watch when we want to ascertain the national character of anybody are as follows : his language and the way he speaks it ; his reaction to matters concerning his nation. This is very important because this is probably one of the causes of what we call tribalism but if properly deflected and canalised, it will help a great deal in the formation of a Nigerian national character. The next thing to watch is his physical appearance ; his habit in his private life ; his business habit—this is probably the most conspicuous.

**An hon. Member** : Which one ?

**Chief Oronsaye** : In determining somebody's national character. Sir, at present, the above points form the system in Nigeria. In other words, we have to study all these with each group ; that is with each tribe in Nigeria and it is after doing all that and forming them into one system in the long run that we will be able to determine the Nigerian national character.

The reason for this is simple. Nigeria is made up of considerably diversified original people who are in the process of fusion. The British deliberately planned to avoid this fusion but, thanks to Nigerian leaders, this fusion has begun. The point being made here is that it should be easy in future for anybody to say "This is a Nigerian". It should be easy for anybody to say so.

House of Representatives Debates

1305

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

31 MARCH 1964

Bill : Second Reading]

1306

That is the point that we are driving at and that is the point the Minister of Finance made in the speech that national character is ascertainable. When we meet an American we know he is an American from the way he swaggers and all that, and the same thing applies to a Scot or a Welsh or an Indian or a Chinese. With your permission, Mr Deputy Speaker, I will also quote another portion of the Speech to show an example given by the Minister himself of the German national character.

*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.*

Sir, that is one example of a national character describing the Germans in their business life. But we have to add other things in order to ascertain fully the German national character.

Take the French man. The French man in his business life is very rude. He is very efficient but he is very impatient and he likes refinement and once you cannot agree with him or you dispute some of his points, then he takes offence even when you are his customer.

I know the example of somebody who had worked for some years with one of the French firms in Nigeria and due to a disagreement which arose, his appointment was terminated. The letter which was written to terminate his appointment said his appointment was terminated as from yesterday and, his salary for two months was paid in lieu of one month's notice. That is the type that we find in the French man. I have described all these so that in future it will be possible for anybody to say from the conduct of any Nigerian that this is a Nigerian.

**Mr Odulana:** What of an English man?

**Chief Oronsaye:** An English man has his usual diplomacy. At Benin we have a proverb which says that a rat while eating your toe will be fanning it so that you do not know it is eating the toe and the toe is gone.

What Nigeria needs now in her nationals are the following—economic nationalism and one language. For one language I suggest *hausa*. (*Hear, hear*).

I remember some years ago, I brought a Motion to the Floor of this honourable House, with all seriousness, that *Hausa* should be adopted as the official language of Nigeria. Although some people opposed the Motion at that time I think that as time goes on hon. Members will find the sense in the Motion. Until Nigeria has one language which is spoken by everybody not when one says—*ka m'bia*, the other one says *minini* and the other one says *mombo*. These are things which fan tribalism. These two things which I have suggested will bring in all that remains to be added to the creation of at least twelve states. If in addition to one language and economic nationalism there are more states created and, the states are of equal size, then there will be more peace and unity in the country.

One of the points stressed very briefly in the speech is the patronising of things made in Nigeria. I think that things made in Nigeria should bring pride to all. To make this possible, it is necessary to protect the infant industries but those in charge must make every effort to face competition from honest labour and not sweated labour from Japan. This is one of the reasons why the imposition of duties should be borne very quietly and patiently by everybody. But, the industries so protected must also do everything in order to have efficiency. I know that at present there is serious competition with Japan. The competition with Japan over inferior and cheap goods is two sided.

One is that Japan is very highly industrialised. The second is the more serious one that it has been discovered that one of the factors of production in Japan, which is labour, is very highly sweated.

To flood the market of other people with things produced from sweated labour requires a good deal of looking into and I think that perhaps one of the ways of solving it is by appointing an Ambassador to Japan. I will come to that subject later.

It is very gratifying to note the extent of external finance already offered and the mode of the offers. At the present state of our

[CHIEF ORONSAYE]

industrial development, it is very necessary to have external aid. It is the surest way of having money to pay for capital goods needed now in this country. Moreover, we cannot ignore international co-operation and partnership now. That is very important because even if we can afford to be self-sufficient in certain fields, we still need international co-operation and partnership. What these external aids should aim at is to whip up Nigerian productive resources so that before the loans are due for repayment productivity will have reached a level that will make it possible for repayments to be made from the earnings of Nigerian exports.

In particular, it is very comforting to note what the World Bank is doing in connection with our major products. The appointment of Mr John Carver as one of the Executive Directors of the World Bank is an expression of great confidence in Nigeria.

The Niger Dam Project will evidently require to be speeded up in view of the great

demand for cheap power for industries. There is no doubt that we need cheap power for industries at the moment. If one looks at the electricity charges, they are already very high and because the Electricity Corporation as I see it at present is still having a good deal of decreasing returns and, in such a state, prices will continue to go up and electricity will be very costly. If the Niger Dam is completed it will provide cheap electricity for industries.

We have a good deal of extended area for fresh water fisheries; that is very important because once there is a dam then it means that the water will have to be extended to more areas and because this water is fresh water it will have abundant fresh water fish which will make the economy of the country much better than it is now.

We also want agricultural development—

**The Deputy Speaker :** It is now twelve mid-night and sitting is adjourned till ten o'clock tomorrow morning.

House of Representatives Debates

1309

[Oral Answers]

1 APRIL 1964

[Oral Answers]

1310

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 1st April, 1964

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS  
ESTABLISHMENTS

O.400. Mr D. M. Gbolagunte asked the Minister of Establishments how many established civil servants transferred or resigned from the various Regional Civil Services and joined the Federal Civil Service since Independence; and how many came from each region.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments (Mr Akubakar Isandu): 267 established civil servants have transferred from the Regional Services to that of the Federation since Independence. 164 came from the North, 39 from the East, and 64 from Western Nigeria. No record is kept of officers who resigned their appointments in Regional Services before joining the Federal Public Service.

HEALTH

O.402. Chief D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Health whether venereal diseases are on the decline in Lagos: and whether he will make a statement.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health (M. Hamza Gombe): There has been an increase in cases of venereal diseases in Lagos. The increase may be as a result of the increase in population in Lagos and environs. It is however believed that some of the increase may be due to the emergence of organisms resistant to commonly used antibiotics.

O.403. Chief D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Health what form of recognition does he give to native medicines; and whether he will make a statement.

The Minister of Health (Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): What is commonly referred

to as native medicine consists of herbs which are in wide-spread use throughout the Republic. No official recognition is ever given to any medicine whether native or foreign. Nevertheless, the importation, distribution, production and use of drugs, which are known to be injurious to health are controlled by the Pharmacy Act.

Chief D. N. Oronsaye: Is the Minister aware that most of the drugs used now in hospitals, take quinine for instance or some other drugs, started as native medicine?

Chief M. A. Majekodunmi: I am fully aware of that. It indeed started as native medicine in Peru, not in Nigeria.

O.404. Chief D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Health how many doctors are in Lagos Hospitals.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health (M. Hamza Gombe): The number of doctors in Lagos Government Hospitals as at 1-1-64 was 130.

COMMUNICATIONS

Posts and Telegraphs

O.129. Mr E. A. Mordi asked the Minister of Communications if he will consider as a matter of urgency the opening of postal agencies in Ezeme Unor, Ashama, Adonta, Ezi, Obomkpa, Ubulubu and Obior since these places are each more than five miles from the nearest Postal Agency or Post Office.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications (Mr S. F. Nwika): There are Postal Agencies in Adonta (opened 2-10-56) Ezi (opened 7-1-61) and Obomkpa (opened 1-6-55).

No requests have been received from the communities at Ezeme, Unor and Ashama for the establishment of Postal Agencies in their areas. If the communities apply in the usual manner to the Territorial Controller, P. and T. Headquarters, Ibadan, the establishments of Postal Agencies in these areas will be examined.

There is already a Sub-Post Office at Ubulu-Uku and provision has been made in the 1962-68 Development Programme for its conversion to Departmental status.

The proposal for establishing a postal agency at Obior will be further considered under the Minister's new policy proposals.

**Mr Mordi :** I have not asked for Ubulu-Uku; I asked for Ubulubu. There is a sub-post office at Ubulu-Uku.

**O.130. Mr E. A. Mordi** asked the Minister of Communications whether in view of the new status of Benin as regional headquarters he will consider the installation there of an automatic telephone exchange as a matter of special urgency to cope with the increased volume of business.

**Mr Nwika :** There is a plan for the provision of an automatic telephone exchange to Benin City in Step 1 of our Telecommunications Development Programme.

**O.131. Mr E. A. Mordi** asked the Minister of Communications if he will bring to an end the system of sending telegrams from Ogwashi-Uku Post Office by means of telephone; and whether he is aware that this system is completely devoid of secrecy which should be the essence of a telegraphic message.

**Mr Nwika :** The telephone method of handling telegrams in Ogwashi-Uku Post Office is the most economical for the small number of messages involved. Secrecy is safeguarded by the fact that the telephone is surrounded by an acoustic booth to ensure secrecy during dictation.

**Mr Mordi :** Is the Minister aware that even when the message is being delivered people who are on the counter hear the message?

**Mr Nwika :** The Minister is not aware.

**O.405. Mr B. O. Ikeh** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider the necessity of installing a telephone at Oferekpe Ferry on the Cross River.

**Mr Nwika :** A public telephone at Oferekpe would at present prove very uneconomic. There is no proposal, therefore, to include it in the current telecommunications development programme unless there are further unforeseen developments.

**O.406. Mr J. K. de-Omomadia** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he has any plan for connecting Oleh-Ughelli and Oleh-Kwale with telephone.

**Mr Nwika :** Yes. There are plans to replace the existing equipment by a more powerful type during the first quarter of the 1964-65. It will then be possible for Oleh to communicate with Ughelli, Kwale and other exchanges in Nigeria.

**O.408. Mr S. O. Fajinmi** asked the Minister of Communications, what was the volume of business transacted in the Ileigbo postal agency in 1960-61, 1961-62, 1962-63 and 1963-64; and whether he will convert it to a Sub-Post Office.

**Mr Nwika :** The units of business transacted in Ileigbo Postal Agency for the last three years are as follows:—

1961 .. .. .	4,828
1962 .. .. .	4,876
1963 .. .. .	4,797

It is regretted that this Postal Agency cannot at present be converted to a Sub-Post Office as the business transacted there is still far below the qualifying units for conversion.

**O.409. Mr S. O. Fajinmi** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will increase the staff of the Iwo Post Office to enable them to cope with the increasing volume of work there.

**Mr Nwika :** The staffing position at Iwo Post Office is under regular review and it is confirmed that the existing staff is adequately related to the volume of business transacted at the Post Office. Another review will be carried out soon and if staff increase is justified, it will be implemented.

**O.410. Mr S. O. Fajinmi** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider establishing a postal agency at Oluponna in Iwo District of Oshun Division.

**Mr Nwika :** No application has been received for the establishment of a Postal Agency at Oluponna. If an application is forwarded to the Territorial Controller, Ibadan, the matter will be examined.

**O.412. Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Minister of Communications, what plans he has for improving the telecommunication services of the fast expanding University town of Nsukka, with particular reference to installing an automatic telephone exchange there

and to instituting a twenty-four hour telephone service :

**Mr Nwika :** The hon. Member's attention is invited to the reply given to a similar question No. 0.328 of 25th March, 1964. The proposal to build an automatic exchange referred to therein will improve telecommunications service in Nsukka and provide a 24-hour service.

**Mr Amadi :** With reference to the question of a 24 hour service, is the Minister aware that a number of applications for installation of telephones have not been dealt with in Nsukka ?

**Mr Nwika :** Applications for telephone services are referred to the Controller at Enugu for action. They are not dealt with at the Headquarters.

**O.413. Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Minister of Communications, how soon the strength of the staff at Nsukka Post Office will be increased to meet the increasing postal service demands :

**Mr Nwika :** The staffing position at Nsukka Post Office is under regular view, and as a result of such view carried out last year, an increase of two Postal Officers and a Mail Porter was made so that the staff could cope with volume of business transacted in the office. No further increase is justified at present.

**O.414. Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will now consider the conversion of the following postal agencies into sub-post offices :—Aku, Opi, Obollo-Afor, Ibagwa Nkwo, the University of Nigeria, Ukpabi, Ukehe, Ogrugu and Umulokpa.

**Mr Nwika :** The current units of business transacted in the Postal Agencies are as follows :

Aku .. .. .	10,313
Opi .. .. .	7,485
Obollo-Afor .. .. .	11,418
Ibagwa Nkwo .. .. .	9,827
The University of Nigeria ..	127,883
Ogrugu .. .. .	3,216
Umulokpa .. .. .	5,589

Ukehe was opened on 7th September, 1963 and the units will be due for calculation on 7th September, 1964.

The upgrading of the University of Nigeria Postal Agency to a Branch Office is currently being examined. None of the other Postal Agencies named has reached the level for conversion to a sub-post office. There is no Postal Agency established at Ukpabi.

## PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

### EXCISE (CONTROL OF DISTILLATION) BILL

Bill to make other provision for the control and licensing for excise purposes of the distillation of spirits, presented by the Minister of Finance ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Monday, 13th April.*

## ORDER OF THE DAY

### APPROPRIATION (1964-65) BILL

(FOURTH ALLOTTED [CONTINUED] DAY)

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND READING  
(18TH MARCH)

*Question proposed, That the Bill be now read a Second time.*

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye :** As I was saying yesterday it is very comforting indeed to hear from the Minister that the inevitable off-shore costs, that is to the tune of £44 million, has been over-subscribed. This was subscribed, according to the Budget Speech, as follows, The World Bank £28 million, Italian Government £9 million, U.S.A. Government £5 million, The United Kingdom Government £3 million, Netherlands £2 million. The total is £47 million.

But it is noteworthy to find that these external loans have come from a group of countries with which Nigeria has external relationships, and with your permission, I will quote from the Budget Speech :—

*Another aspect of the problem of our negotiation with the European 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.*

The chief way of ensuring the trade of any country with another is by having a diplomatic



[CHIEF ORONSAYE]

relationship with that country. It is puzzling to many Members of this House to find that the External Affairs Ministry has left a number of things undone. I will remind hon. Members of an incident that took place a few days ago when our soldiers were going at the request of the Tanganyikan Government, to that country. This Government agreed to send about 600 troops to Tanganyika to help keep the peace, but because there was no proper arrangement for their landing in Chad, they had to return these people from Chad to Kano.

Apart from the waste of money and everything involved, this is a terrible loss of face to Nigeria. Therefore, it seems necessary to give some elementary lesson to the Ministry of External Affairs. It will be necessary then to remind the Minister of External Affairs that although it is expensive to send a Mission abroad, the expense need not be very great on each occasion.

In this respect I will remind the hon. Minister that it was agreed in the Congress of Vienna in 1815, that three categories of ambassadors should be recognised, or diplomatic agents as they were called. A fourth was added at the Treaty of Aix-La-Chapelle.

The first, which probably is the one the Minister is thinking of all the time, is in the first category. This category consists of Papal Nuncios and Ambassadors who enjoy the highest rank and who are deemed to represent the person and dignity of the Heads of State of their own countries. They are entitled to personal access to the Head of State of which they are accredited.

This is the one that involves a good deal of expense but there are some other minor ones and the event that happened in Tchad could have been avoided if the other categories were employed.

The second category is that of Ministers plenipotentiary and Ambassador extraordinary. These are accredited to the Heads of State also but they may not be resident. This is an important point because the question of residence involves the employment of Ambassadorial staff and other things that go with it.

In the third category the Minister resident who may be accredited to the Head of State, ranks below the last class that I have just mentioned.

The fourth and last category is about Charge-d'Affairs. In Tchad, it could have been arranged so that the Nigerian soldiers who were going overseas could have landed there before passing on.

There is something else that has happened recently. A group of journalists were travelling overseas. They left here on February 27th, as is published in the Times of to-day. These people on landing in Cairo found that in spite of all the assurances they got before they left Nigeria, there was not a single person either a representative, an Ambassador or any Nigerian whatsoever, to meet them and they had to grope in the dark. So, it is necessary for more Embassies to be established abroad.

In order to have symmetrical development, it would be necessary to have assistance from the Soviet Union, from Communist China and from France. These countries are very conspicuously absent from the list of helpers that have been made and they are also conspicuously absent in the list of Embassies and Commissions that was given in answer to a question asked a few days ago.

So, Sir, according to the Budget Speech, the most important point that we want to look into is the imbalance of trade. It is notable that capital, which has been used for helping Nigeria, is either liquid or solid capital. It is very necessary to reduce to the smallest extent any acceptance reckoned in terms of money paid by the helping countries to their own personnel in Nigeria. The reason for this can be seen from what was read here the other day by the Minister of Health when he said that there are some people working in the University Hospital who earn a salary of £8,000; but that no penny of this money is paid from Nigerian coins. It is true that no penny of it is paid from Nigerian coins but the country that paid this money will reckon it and say that Nigeria has been helped by £8,000 and this will eventually go into the account of Nigeria.

The establishment of the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank is very welcome. From the disappointing statement of the Minister of Economic Development that the Federal Government Development Programme will not extend to the rural areas, it is necessary to

*House of Representatives Debates*

1317

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

1 APRIL 1964

Bill : Second Reading]

1318

note that the Industrial Development Bank will be failing in its duties if it is going to concentrate its activities in Lagos or its whereabouts. Most of the developments that can be traced so far in this country are centred in Lagos or around Lagos. It is necessary, therefore, for some of these things to be extended to the rural areas. After all, most of the hon. Members in this House are from rural areas.

Among the help that our Government have been receiving from abroad, that of the United States stands supreme at present. The existence of the Organisation called USAID reminds us of the terrible murder of President Kennedy which happened last year. It is a shame, Sir, that until now the enquiry into the assassination remains a paper work. It is pleasing that President Johnson has agreed to carry on the work which has been so ably started by President Kennedy.

The role of the Central Bank is a very notable one. It is pleasing to note that a branch has been opened at Kano; the foundation of another branch has been laid in Port Harcourt and branches are to be opened in Ibadan and Benin City. With this coverage, the Board will be in a position to contribute its quota to the control of voluntary and credit systems of the country. It will be necessary for the bank to be vigilant so as to give sound warnings to all those concerned in an effort to check inflation.

The various saving devices are worth considering by Members of this House because we are expected to show examples to our followers.

It seems to me that there may be a need to revise some of the regulations governing the National Provident Fund. It should be possible for any organisation to participate just now when the number is less than ten. The credit expansion of 1963 which has been mentioned in the Budget Speech is worth considering very seriously. Why I say so, is because it is said in the Budget Speech that many of the banks have been considerably overlent. But may I say, Sir, that all these loans which these banks have given out and which have reduced them to the state which is described in the Budget Speech, were given mostly to expatriates.

Anybody who is in any business or trade whatsoever, will find that most of the expa-

triate banks are not prepared to give loans to people of Nigerian origin. In this connection, therefore, it will be necessary to give some extra help to the indigenous banks as has been promised in the Speech. In addition, it is vital to revise the banking law because at present many financial houses and some firms have been escaping with capital from this country.

The 1963 capital flow has been described as disappointing in spite of external transactions. The only way to avoid the disappointment is by excessive production. The fields are open.

In the North, for instance, there are large areas of land which can be used for the development of wheat cultivation and the other products of articles of food which other countries of the world want. It will be possible to produce so many thousand tons or even million tons of wheat as soon as the Niger Dam Scheme is completed. Everybody can rest assured that these food products will find ready markets in the world. Nigeria can only become rich if she develops her agricultural products to the fullest extent.

Nigeria is essentially an agricultural country and the only way to develop this country is to make it self-sufficient.

Another aspect of my speech is the market for groundnuts. The market for this can be expanded to a considerable length. So also is the market for rubber and cocoa.

The mining of our gold should be undertaken with vigour. The Geological Survey Board should do everything possible to see that the gold resources of the country are tapped, because if Nigeria can tap her gold, then it will be possible to have money in the purse of the Central Bank without having to import gold from overseas.

One other way is to improve our money market. This is at present in its elementary stage—

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order, the hon. Member should wind up his speech now.

**Chief Oronsaye :** Finally, I would like to say that the Distillation of Gin Bill which came up before this House a few months ago is an important thing to be considered, because one of the things that led to a great deal of trouble between the Spanish Island and Nigeria is—

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West): On a point of order, I do not know whether it is because the Member for Benin East (*Chief Oronsaye*) is a Chief, that he has been allowed more than two hours to speak on this one point.

**Mr Speaker**: It is not true that he has been talking for two hours. He has just exhausted his time and I thought it would be kind of the House to allow him one minute to wind up.

**Chief Oronsaye**: I was winding up, but because I mentioned smuggling, the Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) jumped up because smuggling is his stock-in-trade. He is a professional smuggler.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**The Minister of Establishments** (Mr J. C. Obande): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. Although the Ministry of Establishments has been in existence for some years now, I feel that there still exists some misconception of the functions it performs, and that the importance of the role it fills in ensuring the efficiency of the machinery of Government is not fully realised in all quarters. To those who have little direct contact with the Public Service the title of my Ministry—Establishments and Service Matters—is not particularly enlightening.

When the Ministry of Defence is mentioned we all immediately think of our army, navy and air force. The title of the Ministry of Education is also self-explanatory.

I should say that the best way of appreciating what my Ministry really does is to view the Federal Government as an employer and the entire personnel of the Public Service as its employees.

My Ministry plays the role of a Central Staff Department charged with the task of organising and developing the service, determining conditions of employment and ensuring their enforcement, laying down rates of pay and maintaining smooth employer-employee relationship at all times.

Such matters as appointments and promotions are of course, in accordance with the Constitution, the prerogative of the Public Service Commission and outside Ministerial control.

I do not think that anyone would disagree that the selection and retention of skilled and loyal personnel is the keystone of a successful system of Government. We may have fine buildings, all the latest equipment and wonderful plans drawn up by experts, but if the staff who are to occupy the buildings and use the equipment and implement the plans are badly trained, ill-disciplined and disgruntled, this country has no hope of gaining the respect of the world and the admiration of our neighbours.

It is sometimes overlooked that human beings are the most important factor in the world, and that the responsibility for dealing with them is one which cannot be under-estimated. Hon. Members may begin to realise the extent of my portfolio when I inform them that the Federal Government to-day employs no fewer than 51,000 established staff: that is 51,000 persons before we begin to take into account the thousands of our daily paid unestablished employees. This figure does not include the thousands of youngmen now serving in the armed forces.

I have always been a strong advocate of the benefits which a country can derive from a strong and healthy Trade Union Movement. I consider it essential to the progress of any nation that there should be the closest co-operation between the leaders of Government and the leaders of Labour.

After all, are we not both striving to achieve the same object, namely an increase in the material well-being of the workers of Nigeria? We are all living in the same house and it is an accepted axiom that a house divided against itself cannot stand.

The constant aim of this Government's policy has been directed towards ensuring that the living standards of our people continue to rise, and that they should enjoy as many as possible of the benefits which this 20th century has made available to mankind. It is our intention that the progress which has been made so far should go on unhindered.

Any organisation, like any family, large or small, has its differences which may give rise to dispute and quarrels, and unfortunately this last year witnessed a difference of opinion between the Governments of the Federation and certain Trade Union leaders which threatened to cast a cloud over our celebration of Republic Day.

*House of Representatives Debates*

1321

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

1 APRIL 1964

Bill : Second Reading]

1322

Happily, commonsense prevailed, as I consider it usually will in Nigeria, and the causes of our disagreement are now being carefully examined by Mr Justice Morgan and his colleagues.

**Mr L. O. Tobun** (Epe) : On a point of order, I would like the Minister to tell us what arrangement he is making for our boys and girls, who left school in Modern III to get job to do. He should also tell us what he is doing about the problem of unemployment facing our children who have passed their primary school examination and are unemployed. We should get these people something to do.

**Mr Obande** : It is hoped that their report will be completed fairly soon.

In its desire to improve the working conditions of Government's employees and workers, my Ministry has been pressing forward with arrangements to greatly expand and improve our canteen services. The Canteen Committee of the Whitley Councils has redoubled its work in supervising the operation of canteens throughout the Service.

I wish to assure hon. Members that the money which this House has so generously voted for the provision of canteens is being disbursed with the greatest care and only after there has been a thorough examination of the competing demands for available funds.

In the 1962/63 Estimates a sum of £1,000 was voted for canteen services, while in 1963/64 the amount was increased to £16,000. The magnificent Independence House Canteen which I opened last November stands as a testimony to the Government's declared intention to provide first class amenities for its employees.

I would be delighted if hon. Members could find the time to be my guests in this beautiful building so that they may see at first hand what we are doing for members of the Public Service.

My Ministry is not only concerned with making working conditions more pleasant for our civil servants, but also lays great stress on helping them to provide themselves with up-to-date living accommodation. We have been able to make some progress in this direction during the last year, but not nearly as much as we would have liked.

This aspect of my Ministry's work is carried out by the African Staff Housing Board whose members consist of officials and representatives of Staff Associations. This Board disburses loans to established members of the Public Service who wish to purchase land or buildings within the Federal territory of Lagos. The importance of this scheme is recognised by Government, having made £1.8 million available to it under the Six-Year Development Plan.

Applications are dealt with in the strictest chronological order which means "first come, first served" and loans are granted up to five times an officer's annual salary subject to a maximum of £6,000.

I should like to take this opportunity to dispel any idea that the main beneficiaries of this scheme are the most senior civil servants. This is not so. The majority of applications over 800 in number, are from those whose salary scales begin at £450 per annum and below.

During the last year, despite the shortage of funds, the African Staff Housing Board I was able to grant loans amounting to £34,000 to 48 persons to enable them to purchase land from the Lagos Executive Development Board. During the same period 146 houses were purchased from the L.E.D.B. by means of loans from the Housing Board.

The National Council on Establishments, of which the Prime Minister is Chairman, has continued to play a most useful role in ensuring uniformity in the terms of service of Government employees throughout the Federation. At the ministerial and official levels, no fewer than five meetings were held throughout the year to consider matters of common interest to the five Public Services in the Republic.

The number of pensions being paid by the Federal Government continues to increase steadily. I am determined to do away with the delays in payment about which we have heard so much in the past, although I might say that these delays were not, in the majority of cases, the result of administrative failure on the part of my Ministry.

However, those eligible to receive pensions are not interested in the reasons why there should be any delay in their payment and with this in view I have arranged for my Ministry to

[MR OBANDE]

take over from all other Ministries the responsibility for the preparation of payment vouchers for pensions and gratuities.

In addition I have authorised the full mechanisation of the Accounts Branch of my Pensions and Gratuities Division so that I am now satisfied that my Ministry is capable of dealing competently and expeditiously with the additional amount of work which we anticipate.

With the need to exercise the strictest possible control over public expenditure, the Organisation and Methods Division of my Ministry has been continually called upon to advise on the elimination of wasteful procedures and to correct the uneconomical use of staff. Indeed the ever increasing popularity and usefulness of "Organisation and Methods" has been a remarkable feature of the last year.

This unit now has 11 officers located in Ministries and Departments in order to give on-the-spot advice on organisation, procedures and the correct use of manpower and resources. The activities of the unit were also extended to the Armed Forces during the year.

The Organisation and Methods Quarterly Review which is published by the unit aims at the propagation of economy and efficiency consciousness throughout the Public Service. The review has proved of immense benefit to the Federal Government, Regional Governments, the Corporations and private employers. It is now also in constant demand in countries outside Nigeria such as Ghana, Gambia, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

I would now like to turn to the staffing position within the Public Service and, at the risk of boring some hon. Members, give a few facts and figures which I think will throw a significant light on the state of the service to-day. There are approximately 5,700 posts in the Federal Public Service attracting a salary of £450 *per annum* upwards. Nigerians now occupy 4,000 of these and expatriates 600.

The remaining 1,100 posts are unfilled. This means that out of every 100 officers in the more senior grades of the service 87 are Nigerians while 13 are still expatriates. Of the 1,100 vacant posts most are of a technical nature and it has not been possible to find suitably qualified Nigerians to fill them or to recruit expatriates from overseas.

Nearly all the administrative posts in the Public Service have been Nigerianised. 91 *per cent* of the superscale posts and 99 *per cent* of other posts in the administrative class are now held by Nigerians. The number of overseas pensionable officers in the service continues to decline. Last year 122 left on retirement and it is anticipated that by this time next year the number remaining will be considerably less than 100.

This last year has also seen a marked increase in the number of Executive Officers. Sixty-five officers were promoted to this grade and a similar number was directly appointed to the grade of Executive Officer or Assistant Executive Officer.

In the General Duties Division, as distinct from the Accounting Division, of the Executive Class, there are now only 20 vacancies out of a total establishment of 310.

Despite the efforts being made to train secretarial staff at the Federal Training Centres at Lagos and Kaduna, at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and in London, there is still a great need for more Stenographers and Secretary-Typists. We have attempted to alleviate this shortage by encouraging expatriate staff to remain a bit longer, and I am pleased to say that many have agreed to do so.

In order to train more secretarial staff locally the facilities at the Federal Training Centres in Lagos and Kaduna have recently been expanded to allow more trainees to be admitted. Also the Federal Training Centre in Lagos has now begun training Verbatim Reporters.

I have always regarded training as one of the most important matters within my portfolio, and I am pleased to tell the House that the Federal Training Centre in Lagos has acquired a high reputation, judging by the number of applications for admission received both locally and from abroad.

In furtherance of the Government's policy of helping other African States, the Centre has opened its doors to students from many other countries. The Government of Liberia was so pleased with the progress made by its first batch of students that it has asked for more places and we have agreed to accept 10 additional students.

The Government of Tanganyika has also sent 11 officers to be trained as Secretary-Typists and other trainees are shortly expected from Basutoland.

I would like to close by informing hon. Members that the Ministerial Committee appointed to examine the Federal Government's new General Orders has now almost completed its task, and that these will be printed and published in the very near future.

I know that this is a matter which has been causing concern to some Members of the House and I am pleased to tell them that the patience and forbearance which they have so generously shown will shortly be rewarded.

I beg to support.

**Alhaji Aminu Kano** (Kano East): Mr Speaker, I understand that the Leader of the House would like to wind up this debate at 12.30 p.m. and therefore I would not like to take much of the time of the House in order to allow Members who still like to contribute to speak. I would like to say how much I appreciate the manner in which the Minister of Finance has always given titles to his Budget Speeches.

We had the "People's Budget" sometime ago; we also had the "Sovereignty Budget" and then we had the "Mobilisation Budget". Last year we had the "Modernisation Budget" and this year we have the "National Budget". It is not these titles that matter but the subsequent activity and the way we implement the decision taken in this Parliament.

The first question one would like to ask is the question I asked last year. Have we really mobilised our resources, human and natural, to meet the demand of the nation, to meet the new challenge in Africa? I do not like to take the Minister to task, but when we come to the appropriate Ministries I would subscribe my views.

There is no doubt that Nigeria has established itself as a great nation in Africa and that of course, no man can stop our march to prosperity. I would like to assert that the work of nation building, that is, of making Nigeria a great nation is not as easy as it looks. It is a stupendous task because our aim is not only to create a united Nigeria but a democratic Nigeria.

A democratic Nigeria must have people who are mentally and morally disciplined. Without this it is difficult to create a great nation and Nigeria to-day is acclaimed as a great nation. May I say that on this question of creating a democratic nation my hon. Friend the Minister of Economic Development, in his speech the other day, referred *inter alia* to the communist countries as less democratic. I do not agree with him. I do not agree that the pattern of democracy in Western Society is an ideal pattern.

I feel that when we talk of an ideal democracy we do not mean the pattern of democracy in the western world. Let us take a look at some of the countries in these Western democracies. For instance, can we describe either Spain or Portugal or even South Africa as a democracy? After all these are some of the countries in western world. Are we going to copy the pattern of democracy in Spain or Portugal? Therefore, the question of either communist states being democratic or not does not arise in this House. We have to evolve our own system whereby our people, and those of other nationalities living among us may have satisfaction.

I must say that democracy is a very confused notion. It is a confused notion because it may only be defined as a system of Government which permits of people in a country ultimately and periodically to elect their own rulers; to determine what type of ruler they will have and also to determine the pace and direction of progress of the country concerned. This is important not only in determining the direction of progress or the rulers of the country but in effecting the succession of these rulers without violence and in accordance with the rule of law.

After establishing this system, democracy is not complete without the people having adequate living, food, education, good health, capacity to rule, leisure and work. Without these the rudiments of democracy becomes meaningless. Above all the people in a democratic society must have their dignity protected.

Therefore I urge that this country should abandon the illusion that our democracy must conform to the pattern of British or that of the Western World. The question of one-party, two-party or even a multi-party system of government is not necessarily a guarantee or the

[ALHAJI AMINU KANO]

essence of democracy. There is more in the temper of society, the ease and the smoothness of transition and change, the tolerance of difference and so on ; these are the ingredients which evolve a democracy in a given country. Nigeria has the chance to evolve her own without necessarily copying one hundred *per cent* from any quarter.

Now I would like to come to the Budget Speech itself. I will take three parts of the Budget Speech and comment on them. We see that there were, during the past year, some outstanding achievements. We have been told and, it is true, that an Industrial Development Bank has been established. This is needed in this country because of our resources, our size and the demand on us by the people. There is great need to establish an Industrial Bank which will cater naturally for industrial developments.

We notice with great pride that last year we achieved a record level of currency circulation. There is no doubt that it is not a very easy thing for a country to have a continuous rise in currency circulation without a hitch.

We have laid the foundation of money market and there is a growing confidence in our currency all over the world. Nigerian currency is cashable everywhere in any world.

The entry of Nigeria into the Customs Cooperation Council is a great achievement because we are the only country in Africa that has entered into this council. The establishment of a Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company is also a great step in making this nation one and great, and, of course, not to talk of the different factories that have sprung up in the country, not only with a view one day to satisfy our internal demands, but also to export some of these commodities which we have manufactured.

It is also significant to note that there are certain set-backs and disappointments. For example, we notice with grave concern the rate at which our reserves are declining. We notice also with disappointment the downward trend of our commodities in the world market. We also notice, not with pleasure, the inadequacy of capital goods. These are the disturbing factors that fundamentally affect our economic planning.

Now, the question of low commodity prices brings us face to face with the general trends and problems of world trade as they affect developing countries—and here Nigeria is not the only one. Developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and very few countries in Europe suffer some potential trade deficit because the existing principles and patterns of world trade still favour mainly the highly industrialised countries of the world.

It is a fact that every year the highly industrialised part of the world is becoming richer and richer and the developing countries—that is the primary producing countries of the world—are becoming poorer and poorer. This economic gap which is widening every year between developed and developing countries has for a very long time engaged the attention of developing countries, especially those members of the United Nations, and by persuasion, diplomacy, and pressure they have now succeeded in forcing the industrialised countries to accept the call for a conference on trade matters.

A trade conference is going on in Geneva under the umbrella of the U.N., and this is the most important single event internationally for the developing countries since the inception of the United Nations. The conference has accepted to reach political and practical decisions and to give guarantee to implement the decisions reached. The main point is to note the methods which the developing countries very much want to achieve at this conference :

Firstly, the developing countries of the world face to face with the highly industrialised countries of the world want to see the creation of conditions for the expansion of trade between countries at similar levels of developments, countries at different stages of development, and countries having different systems of social and economic organisations.

Secondly, they want to see progressive reduction and early elimination of all barriers and restrictions and imposition of exports on the developing countries without reciprocal action on their part.

Thirdly, they would like to see also an increase in the volume of exports in primary products both raw and processed to industrialised countries and stabilising the prices at fair and remunerative level.

*House of Representatives Debates*

1329

[*Appropriation (1964-65)*]

1 APRIL 1964

*Bill : Second Reading*]

1330

Fourthly, they would demand the extension of markets for exports of manufactures and semi-manufactures from the developing countries.

Fifthly, they would also like to have a provision for more adequate financial resources at favourable terms so as to enable themselves to increase their imports of capital goods and industrial raw materials essential for the economic development and better co-ordination of trade aid and policy.

Sixthly, they want to see improvements of the invisible trade of their countries particularly by reducing their payments of freight and insurance and the burden of their debt charges.

Lastly, they want to see improvements on institutional arrangements including, if necessary, the establishment of a new machinery in markets to implement the decisions of the conference.

These are the major issues which the developing countries plan to push through at this conference which is taking place now in Geneva.

Now, coming to the question of mobilisation of our developing plan, I refuse to believe that we have carried out enough mobilisation. Our Six-Year Development Plan up till to-day has not been felt in the financial bones of ordinary Nigerians. The rural areas are still untouched and unaffected. I cannot see, therefore, how any national economic planning can succeed within a given period without intensifying the drive to mobilise people to participate actively in the plan.

I think that the most important thing in an economic development plan is determination to wipe out illiteracy. Illiteracy and ignorance in a given area like Nigeria must be wiped out in order to hasten the progress of the economic development plan, because it seems to me that the root cause of all our ills — loss of life, loss of health, and lack of co-operative effort — is ignorance. Ignorance makes people fatalistic. It makes people extremely rural and tribally-minded. Ignorance breeds apathy and offers resistance towards progress, and all efforts of progressive people in a community to improve the social status of their ignorant counterparts are rendered useless.

I would, therefore, like to suggest quite strongly and very honestly that there should be a Five-Year Plan purposely to eliminate illiteracy in Nigeria. We can call it "Operation Alphabet". In this way literate Nigerians must teach those illiterates by the snowball method.

Furthermore, we can have a youth pioneer corps. This will take in those boys and girls whose education stops somewhere, and who had not the chance to move to the highest ladder of education, because to-day, especially in the urban areas, we have thousands and thousands of youngmen and women going about without any jobs and who must be absorbed in this corps which will be part of the mobilisation of the economic development plan.

One should not ask these people to go back to the land because they would never go back to land. One should ask them to stay on the land. These men and women want adventure. They want something to do, and if one does not do anything about them they become more and more what I would like to call social explosives.

Mobilisation means mobilisation. We would like to see everybody mobilise all the mobilisables. We would like to see the President of the Nigerian Republic, the Prime Minister and the leaders of Governments in the Federation down to the hall porter and the railway porter given the opportunity to contribute his quota in this national economic planning. I believe we can do it. President Nyerere of Tanganyika is doing it, and we can do it. I believe we can create the internal upsurge. We can get the fund from our resources by making use of our manpower—now fifty-five million strong. It is important that we should face these facts.

Turning to another aspect of the Budget, I would like to say that it is significant to notice the increase in the Ministry of Defence. We are told that the intention is to expand the Armed Forces. We are also told that Nigeria has no territorial ambition. But care must be taken in the training of our army abroad, whether in Germany, England, Israel, the United States or even in Japan. The weapons they use must differ according to the different countries. At home, there should be a further training for co-ordination in the use of these weapons.



[ALHAJI AMINU KANO]

Secondly, care must be taken in the use of the troops. Just last week our troops were flown to Tanganyika to replace the British Troops but they were refused to land in the Chad Republic after taking off at Kano. I feel that whenever we are going to make use of our troops it is safer either to go through the United Nations or through the Organisation of African Unity. Unilateral actions in making use of troops very often encourage mutinies, bickerings and murmurings among nations.

I would like to congratulate the Minister of Defence on the establishment of a Nigerian Military Academy and the Ordnance Factory, and on the adoption of modern methods of training and modern weapons to train our people. May I say that when we come to train our pilots we hope that the Ministry of Defence will not adopt the old traditional way of starting with the rudiments of flying. As I said before, if we want to fly we must put the boys in the aeroplanes and let them fly. If we want to learn how to fly we should not start first by learning how to ride a camel and then go to learn how to drive a car. Let us start straightaway by getting them into aeroplanes and flying them. Let us cut off the number of months and years which people use in a place like Britain. Israel did it and it, can be done anywhere.

I would now like to go to the Ministry of External Affairs. I see that there is an increase in this Ministry also. I would like to say that I am not one of those who feel that the Ministry of External Affairs is in a mess, but I cannot help feeling that we give the impression of being too slow in reaching major decisions. For example, there is now a Government established on the soil of Congo Leopoldville, a Government of the people of Angola—the Provisional Government led by Roberto. We have given Roberto money according to my information, we have also given him equipment and we have even asked his boys to come and train as administrators, and yet we refuse or hesitate to recognise the Government as a legitimate Government. United Arab Republic has recognised it ; Morocco has recognised it and Ghana has even done the same thing. What are we waiting for ?

We have also given more money to the Organisation of African Unity to fight colonialism yet, when it comes to taking immediate

decisions we find that we are too slow to act. This must stop. We must move ahead if we really want to lead Africa. I want the Minister of External Affairs to explain how it happened that last year Nigeria refused to indicate her intention to gain any position in the United Nations. It will please this House if the Minister of External Affairs tells us why Nigeria makes the biggest financial contribution to the Organisation of African Unity and yet finds herself outshone by other members of the Organisation.

Communication and correspondence between the Ministry of External Affairs and Missions abroad take donkey years for a reply to be received, and this minimises our chances of negotiation. I do not want to go into details, but I would like the Minister to say something about the points I have raised.

I now come to a matter which has been agitating the minds of many of us in this House, those of us who come from an area which is unique in itself, and that area is Kano Province. Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like you to know that before the census there were four and a half million people living in Kano Province, and now, according to the census, the figure has risen to about six and a half million. There is no doubt about this. What is astonishing is that this province is one of the smallest in size, in terms of geographical size, because it is just about fifteen or sixteen square miles. But it harbours six million people. This province produces more than half the tonnage of groundnuts in Northern Nigeria ; it also, has the biggest freight for Nigerian Railway and it has the largest yearly number of railway passengers in the country. Bearing all these in mind, it is astonishing that I have not seen one single Federal Government factory being established in Kano ; not one. Even the Kano Airport which has been a great asset to the people, providing labour and means of livelihood for the people in Kano, is becoming more and more degenerated. I learn that many—

**Mr L. O. Tobun (Epe) :** On a point of order, I would like to appeal to my hon. Friend, the Member for Kano East (*Alhaji Aminu Kano*) to stop talking in this wise because I am from the West and we are suffering from the same plight. I would like to advise him to forget this point until after the next election.

House of Representatives Debates

1333

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

1 APRIL 1964

Bill : Second Reading]

1334

**Alhaji Aminu Kano :** We have a proverb which says that when something is smelling, it is only when you care for it that you know it is smelling. I do not care for the Member for Epe (*Mr Tobun*).

I would like the Minister of Transport to explain to this House why Lufthansa Airways, United Arab Airlines—

**An hon. Member :** On a point of information, I want to inform the Member for Kano East (*Alhaji Aminu Kano*) That there are over 30 industries in Kano.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East) :** On a point of order, people always want to make gross mistakes. What the Member for Kano East (*Alhaji Aminu Kano*) is saying is that there is no Federal Government institution not any institution, in Kano. If private people in Kano form an enterprise and open a factory, somebody coming here to say that we have a factory in Kano is right because the people of Kano opened it and not the Federal Government.

**Alhaji Aminu Kano :** I thank my hon. Friend. I think it is good he knows that 30 industries are in Kano. I was saying that not one of them has any Federal Government participation. That is what I am saying. Those are the efforts of the Regional Government. Lufthansa Airways—

**Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi (Oshun South) :** On a point of order, may we know, Mr Speaker, how long you will allow the hon. Member sitting besides the Sergeant-at-Arms to be there. He has not told us why he is there.

**Mr Speaker :** that is the Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms.

**Alhaji Aminu Kano :** Lufthansa Airways, Swiss Airways, United Arab Republic Airways have asked permission to land in Kano, to land, not to carry passengers, but for prestige purposes. They have not been allowed. We want to know why these things happen. This degeneration of Kano Airport is very bitter in our minds, and there are 35 Members from Kano in this House !

The other day, my hon. Friend the Member for Muri South West (*Mallam Abubakar Ibrahim*) made reference to the question of unity. There

is no doubt that the events of the past few years make one feel very much disappointed at the rate we are building our country. There is need for our leaders and for everybody in Nigeria to know that the basis of unity lies on respect for the traditions of one another without which a nation can hardly find means to unite (*Hear, hear*). I, therefore, call upon all of us, especially our Heads of Government, to ring the bell for us to march.

**Mr Speaker :** The Minister of Mines and Power.

**Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East) :** On a point of order, the honourable Deputy Prime Minister of this country, Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu, has been known and accepted as "power" in this Parliament. There should be no other person addressed as "power".

**Several hon. Members :** Only one "Power"

**Alhaji Bello Dandago :** On a point of order, there are different types of "power"—electric power, defence power, military power, and so on. (*Laughter*).

**Mr Speaker :** You know that one is the most powerful.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) :** On a point of order, without meaning to deprive the Ministers of their opportunities to give a report of their stewardship, I think it will be fair if they will allow other Members of the House to have their say (*Interruptions*). What I intend to convey in particular is this: if one Minister speaks, other Members should be allowed to speak before any other Minister speaks.

**An hon. Member :** The time of the Minister of Mines and Power is being wasted.

**Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) :** On a point of order, I want to say that this House reserves the right to speak adequately and effectively and exhaustively on the Budget. For our reputable Ministers to take away the time from us, we think, is, in many respects, a derogation of our rights, and we appeal to them to allow us to tell them what the people think. An allegation has been made that the Government is not taking into account the people's views. We want to give these views to them only when we are allowed to speak. I personally have not spoken on the Budget.

**Mr Speaker :** Order. I would not like to defend the Government, strong as it is, against the wishes of the Members. But, honestly, I think Members have spoken quite a lot and I think it is for the convenience of the House that we are told what the Ministers are doing, and this is the avenue. I think we should allow the Minister of Mines and Power to speak.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** On a point of order, I would like to make a compromise and that is that the Ministers should be allowed to speak only from 9 p.m. to 12 mid-night.

**Mr Speaker :** That is your suggestion. Minister of Mines and Power.

**The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule) :** I would like to explain that I am Minister of Power and not the power itself.

Hon. Members, I pray, will bear with me if I bore them with facts and figures in this speech because I certainly will have to, so that I may give them some stuff with which to criticize me or to commend me for having done some good work.

**An hon. Member :** And for promotion.

**Alhaji Maitama Sule :** Yes, and for promotion.

**Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) :** On a point of order, even though it is the practice of this House to allow Members of the Cabinet to make statements during the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, we Floor Members of the House are being deprived of the opportunity to air our views (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker :** I assure hon. Members that they are not wasting the Minister's time ; they are wasting their own time.

**Alhaji Maitama Sule :** Last year, I covered in my speech a very wide range of historical background leading to the establishment of the Mines, Petroleum, Electricity and Geology Divisions of my Ministry because at that time I felt it was important to lay a foundation whereon I shall, from time to time, be able to report progress of all the developments which flowed from the establishment of these Divisions.

Our aim in the Ministry of Mines and Power is to ensure that Nigeria's interests are protected, and to enable us to do this, it is reckoned that the Ministry must be provided with Nigerian staff capable of understanding the technicalities involved in mining and petroleum industries.

Our Estimates for 1964-65 do not contain substantial changes because we share in the belief that it is more important for the Government to make adequate provision for the Six-Year Development Programme rather than to spend more money on financing government establishments which are already in existence.

I am happy to report to this House that the wisdom in creating the Petroleum Division in my Ministry has been vindicated in that more effective vigilance on the oil industries in this country has been secured.

Members will be interested to learn that all the divisions in my Ministry are now headed by Nigerians with proved ability and technical know-how to deliver the goods. Nigerianisation in my Ministry is progressing satisfactorily. It is only in the Geological Division of the Ministry that noticeable number of expatriates still serve and I hope to be able to replace them as soon as Nigerians training in this field become available.

Our policy in the field of mineral oil exploration has not changed. This is to encourage the search for oil in all parts of the Federation by enlisting the aid of as many reputable and technically competent companies as can be interested.

It is our policy to limit the holdings on land of the companies to no more than they are entitled to by the previous grants and to encourage competing companies to take up the areas that have been relinquished by the companies.

The Petroleum Division of my Ministry began its first full year of existence in 1963 as a separate Division, and with the limited staff available, we have established the beginnings of both Reservoir Section and a Geological Section.

After reviewing the information and data on oil operations already available in the Ministry, more information is usually collected from oil companies in order to ensure more

*House of Representatives Debates*

1337

[Appropriation (1964-65)

1 APRIL 1964

Bill : Second Reading]

1338

accurate assessment of the progress of operations. The processing of these data is a time-consuming exercise but the Petroleum Division of my Ministry is coping with the work most satisfactorily.

During the year under review, work continued on the proposed Comprehensive Oil Law. The Committee of officials has now completed its assignment on this law. The way is now paved for direct consultation with oil companies before the comprehensive oil bill is presented to this honourable House.

In June 1963, representatives of my Ministry attended both the World Petroleum Congress in Frankfurt, Western Germany, and the Consultative Meeting of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Geneva.

I promised in my last year's speech to arrange for a feasibility study of all possible uses of our natural gas. I am happy to be able to report that towards the end of last year a four-man Canadian team came out to Nigeria to carry out this study on all aspects of gas utilisation and distribution. The report of the team is expected within the next two months.

Speaking generally on the oil industry, hon. Members would wish to note that exploration and production activities are progressing at an increased pace. The companies who have not done any drilling are due to commence within the next few months but most companies operating on land have selected the sites of their first exploration wells.

Three companies have drilled offshore and one has had very encouraging results. As a matter of fact, the first two wells drilled on "Block B" made substantial oil discoveries and the company concerned has since drilled another two wells in the same block.

Shell-BP continued their programme in connection with the Trans-Niger pipeline. They obtained licences to lay lines for the evacuation of Mid-West oil to the export terminal in Bonny. Production in the Mid-West is expected to begin in 1965.

Oil production increased to over 80,000 tons per day which is equivalent to a rate of over 4 million tons a year. This, of course, resulted in increased revenue from Royalties. The total field storage value of oil produced in 1963 was nearly £19½ million and the total

royalty from this production was nearly £2½ million from which is deducted rents paid in respect of producing leases.

The Board of Directors of the Refining Company in which all the Governments of Nigeria have shares began its work during this period. The six Government Directors of the Board have been appointed and much work on the refining side which was formerly done by the Petroleum Division of my Ministry has been passed to the Board of Directors.

I must say something, however, about the training of staff to man this division. The training of prospective petroleum engineers continues in the United Kingdom Colleges and in the English oilfields. Two technologists-in-training completed their post-graduate courses at the Imperial College and are obtaining practical field experience in the United Kingdom; a third oil technologist-in-training is scheduled to complete his post-graduate training in the middle of this year.

A trainee earmarked for the refinery section obtained his degree in Chemical Engineering and is at present obtaining practical experience in a United Kingdom refinery. One of the petroleum engineers in the Headquarters office in Lagos is at present attending short courses in reservoir engineering and well log interpretation in Italy and France.

It is hoped that the new petroleum Law will be presented to this honourable House during this year. With its becoming law, we shall intensify our efforts to obtain all available information and continue their more detailed interpretation.

If staff and funds are available, we intend to establish a field office at Warri in 1965 when oil production in the Mid-West begins. We hope to intensify our training programmes and application is being made now for two of the oil-technologists to continue their practical field training in Canadian oilfields.

The Electrical Inspection Division of my Ministry has suffered greatly from lack of staff. In March 1963, there was only one Inspecting Engineer due to the inadequate salaries offered. However, I would report that the drive towards recruitment locally showed some results and the total strength of the engineering staff is now five. Most of the outstanding inspections have now been

[ALHAJI MAITAMA SULE]

cleared and for the new financial year 1964-65, additional and revised proposals have been approved to give the division the desired pyramid. It is hoped that further recruitment of engineers this year will be encouraging.

One Inspecting Engineer is already posted for duties in the Western Region Inspectorate at Ibadan and it is proposed to base an Inspecting Engineer each in Jos, Kaduna and Enugu as soon as housing and office accommodation can be found.

Six persons have been appointed as Assistant Technical Officers-in-training and will eventually assist the Inspecting Engineers in their rounds of inspection and testing.

The revision of the Electricity Act, Cap. 57 and of the Regulations Cap. 58 made under it is in progress. Amendments proposed to the Wayleave Act have been submitted to our law officers for vetting and it is hoped that during this year the amendments will be presented to this House for approval.

In October 1963, the Chief Inspecting Engineer led a Nigerian delegation including two Engineers from the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria to the first African Power Conference in Addis Ababa. The Conference was sponsored by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and was attended by twenty-one delegates and fifty-three observers from over thirty countries. The draft report and resolutions adopted at the meeting are being studied by the Government.

Late last year, the Chief Inspecting Engineer was appointed Head of the Panel of Correspondents for Nigeria on the C.C.T.A.-C.S.A. sponsored Conference on Long Distance Transmission and Distribution of Electric Power in African countries.

Arrangement is being made to send a Nigerian delegation to the International Conference on Large Electric Systems taking place in Paris in June this year.

The services of a highly qualified Chief Electrical Engineer are being sought under Technical Assistance from Canada. The Engineer will advise me on a number of problems of electricity including the reorganisation of the Electrical Inspectorate Division of my Ministry.

The work of the Mines Division of my Ministry may briefly be classified under two main headings. Firstly the work undertaken in respect of safety in Mines and efficient exploitation of our mineral resources; and secondly, the work undertaken by the Mines School in rendering service to the public both at the Mill and in the training of personnel for the mining industry.

The work of preliminary investigation which the Division started in 1954 still continues. The unit is at present performing useful service particularly in helping the smaller operators and African Miners by providing on a hire basis equipment for valuation of ground and for dealing with excessive water which these miners would otherwise be unable to afford.

This unit will also co-operate with the Engineering Section to undertake in a small way, the investigation of mineral deposits throughout the country.

It is with pleasure, I have to report that owing to an improvement in the staff position of the Mines Division a much more effective coverage of the minesfield has been possible. The future is to be regarded with hope and the sign at present is that this hope is not a vain one.

Prospecting for diamond has not revealed any spectacular success but there is development in other directions which may result in the revival of mining in those areas in which mining has been on the decline. The Mines Division has been reorganised to meet the present development and to be able effectively to assist the trends towards revival.

The Mines Division Technical School which runs Diploma Course in Alluvial Mining is doing useful work.

In the near future, the chemical assay facility which the school is now developing will be open to the public and will mark yet another milestone in the development of the Mines School as a unit which the mining public can look up for service, help and advice.

We are happy that with the price of tin at £1,000 plus, the position of tin price is much better than it was this time last year when it settled precariously around £850.

My Ministry is doing its best to provide the stimulus and encouragement which the industry requires to meet the challenge of the present high level of demand for tin.

*House of Representatives Debates*

1341

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

1 APRIL 1964

Bill : Second Reading]

1342

I cannot end up a speech on mining without mentioning to this Honourable House that the welfare and training of African personnel are progressing as well as one would expect.

In addition to the use of the Mines School which has been patronised by the industry, a number of overseas scholarship awards are now being offered to Nigerians for full professional training. I have no doubt that the employment of these men when they qualify would ensure Nigerian participation in the industry in positions other than subordinate ones.

The systematic regional geological mapping was continued in three Regions of the Republic and reports and publications describing the results of completed surveys were either issued or in preparation.

In the field of economic geology, the investigation of deposits of minerals for possible economic potential was either completed or in progress at the end of the year.

Airborne geophysical surveys of favourable parts of Lokoja and Jos in Northern Nigeria, and Ilesha in Western Nigeria, and parts of Mid-Western Nigeria were carried out under Canadian Technical Assistance Programme, with a view to accelerating the search for economic mineral deposits. The ground follow-up of this survey in the Lokoja area is now being carried out by a team of geologists from the Geological Survey Division. Maps showing the results of the gravity surveys of the Chad Basin and the Benue Valley carried out previously were published and distributed.

Investigation of the hydrogeology of the Chad and Sokoto artesian basins were continued with the assistance of the United States Agency for International Development. In addition, routine investigations for the siting of water supply boreholes and wells were carried out on behalf of government agencies, commercial concerns and the general public.

Also investigated were the water supply problems of the Niger Dam resettlement areas. A start was also made with the National Survey of Groundwater Resources under the current Six-Year Development Plan.

Members would wish to note that applications have been submitted to the United Nations Special Fund Board, the Governments of the United States, Canada, Italy and the United Kingdom for technical assistance in the accelerated exploration for economic minerals

in various parts of the country. It is hoped that all these projects will get under way this financial year.

An essential thing about this projected economic activities for next year will be the execution of further airborne and ground geophysical surveys as well as the ground follow-up of these by teams of economic geologists and supporting technicians using the most modern techniques of mineral exploration.

The Chad and Sokoto hydrogeological projects will also be continued. Consultancy services on water supply problems will continue to be given to government agencies, commercial concerns and the general public. The National Survey of Groundwater Resources will continue apace as staff become available.

An important staff change during the year was the departure of the Director, Dr R. R. E. Jacobson, on pre-retirement leave after twenty-six years' meritorious service. Four Nigerian geologists, one trainee-geophysicist and one trainee-chemist joined the staff of the Division during the year.

Two of the geologists are among the first crop of geology graduates ever to be produced by the University of Ibadan. One of them is now on a three-year study leave in the United Kingdom pursuing a course in geochemistry.

At the end of the year the number of Nigerians holding senior posts was eleven, made up as follows : Geologists seven, Scientific Officers two, Laboratory Technologists one, Higher Executive Officer one. And for the first time ever a Nigerian Assistant Director of the Division acted successively in the posts of Deputy Director and Director.

Three water supply geologists from the United States Geological Survey attached to the United States Agency for International Development collaborated with the Division in the execution of the Chad and Sokoto artesian water supply projects. This project is being jointly carried out by the Geological Survey of Nigeria and the United States Agency for International Development.

A United Nations Economic Geologist and Geophysicist visited the Division about the middle of last year to assist the staff of the Division in preparing an application submitted

[ALHAJI MAITAMA SULE]

to the United Nations Special Fund Board for the airborne geophysical survey and ground follow-up of an extensive area in North-Western Nigeria. An important aspect of this project is the opportunity it provides for the training of less experienced officers in the methods of modern mineral exploration. It is expected that the bulk of such officers will be Nigerians.

May I seize this opportunity to make a public statement about power failures in Lagos and in other parts of the country. I am aware that these have caused a great deal of concern, both to members of the industrial and business communities as well as to domestic consumers. The recent power cuts have also been a cause of great concern to me.

The E.C.N. has, for quite some time now, been the subject of a great deal of criticism, some of which are inaccurate while some may be accurate, some of which may be ill-informed while some may be genuine.

Many of the present difficulties in Lagos and Ibadan arise from the phenomenal increase in the demand for electricity and from the fact that existing generating capacity is inadequate to allow for machinery being taken out of service periodically, for routine maintenance and overhaul, or in the event of an occasional breakdown. Let us not forget, that since the grant of independence three and half years ago, the pace of development has quickened.

This has led to a phenomenal rise in the demand for electricity, particularly in the Lagos-Apapa-Ikeja-Ibadan area, where so many new industries have been established. In fact, the demand for electricity, taking the country overall, is now growing at the phenomenal rate of 20 per cent.

In the Lagos area, the rate of growth is even higher. This was certainly not anticipated by the E.C.N. Management of pre-independence days.

What hon. Members may ask is, what is the E.C.N. doing about it? Realising the problem of lack of generating capacity, it was decided in 1962 to purchase two 7MW gas turbine sets from Clarke Brothers of New York, which were ordered in June 1962, one for Lagos and the other for Ibadan.

Again, in 1963, it became apparent that there was going to be a shortage of generating capacity and a further crash programme was drawn up, in order to provide an additional 20MW of generating capacity which was so evidently required. This was to be by the provision of:

One 7 MW gas turbine set from Clarke Brothers of New York;

One 7MW gas turbine set from Brown Boveri of Switzerland;

Two Diesel Sets, each of 2½-3MW capacity from the U.K.

I would freely admit that our planning, to some extent has been faulty. We were originally relying on a commissioning date for the Kainji hydro-electric scheme for 1966. There have been unfortunate delays and it is now anticipated that the Niger Dams Scheme will come into operation about the middle of 1969.

We have, therefore, had to revise our programme to provide the additional generating capacity which will be required. We are going to build a new power station of 72MW capacity near Ughelli in the Niger Delta, which will utilise the nation's abundant resources of natural gas. This station will provide power for the Mid-West and it will help to boost the electricity supply, both in the towns in the East and in Ibadan and Lagos.

Work on the Transmission Lines from Lagos to Benin and from Benin to Ughelli has already started and work on the power station will start in the very near future.

Even with the new station, the E.C.N. is not certain that supplies will be adequate in the Lagos-Ibadan area.

**Mr A. U. D. Mba** (Owerri North): On a point of order, the Minister has told us that the Niger Dam project will be ready in 1969 and experts have forecast that there is going to be a series of serious power failures in Nigeria between now and that time. What is he going to do about it because if this happens, it is bound to ruin our whole economy?

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

**Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule**: If the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) had been listening very carefully, he would have

heard that I made the statement that the E.C.N. had been actively considering the situation and we are revising the whole programme in order to meet the demand for electricity as a result of this delay.

Even with the new station which we are providing for Lagos in order to meet this demand as a result of the delay, we think that the E.C.N. is not certain that the supplies will be adequate in the Lagos—Ibadan area. This matter is now under active consideration.

I do not wish to say anything definite at the moment, until our plans reach finality, but I wish to assure the House that if the power from the Delta Power Station and the additional sets now being installed will not be sufficient, we are going to do something about it.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): This is April, a year has gone and you are still considering.

**Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule** : I would ask hon. Members to have a little sympathy with the Corporation ; to bear in mind that the tasks now confronting it are enormous and to realise that it is doing its best to meet the challenge.

The Electricity Corporation of Nigeria is making satisfactory progress in its operations in other fields and the expansion of its energy supplies is proceeding satisfactorily. The level of power sales has increased considerably and the resulting increase in revenue indicates a healthy improvement over last year's results.

It is already possible to say that the Corporation will be able to declare a substantial surplus at the end of the current financial year which will be about twice the surplus for the preceding financial year.

This surplus will be primarily employed in the following ways :

1. To pay the operating deficits at a number of amenity undertakings which are running at a loss.

2. To finance part of the programme of capital development at existing and new undertakings.

The management of the Corporation is now entirely in the hands of Nigerians, with the appointment last September of a Nigerian as Acting Chief Executive Officer and General Manager.

Further Nigerianisation is proceeding at the lower ranks of the ladder, particularly in the technical cadres and the Corporation is encouraging the entry of highly qualified Nigerian Engineers into the field of planning and design.

The Corporation is now entering a period of consolidation of its organisation and continuous growth in its power system. In so far as the organisation of the Corporation is concerned, the main feature will be the expansion of the technical departments so as to enable the planning and most of the technical design work of the Corporation to be carried out locally by Nigerians.

The most important feature of the Corporation's power system is the very rapid, one might say phenomenal, growth in the demand for electricity. This arises out of the implementation of the national economic development plan which is bringing into existence many industries. Owing to very conservative forecasts in the past, there has not been sufficient plant provision in past plans to cope with the existing demand and have a sufficient margin.

Furthermore, the attempt to plan electricity supplies on the basis of fitting into the Niger Dams project has resulted in inadequate projections of the investment required in power plant to guarantee adequate and reliable supply of electricity.

Additional development and extension of distribution systems will continue in existing undertakings. This will ensure the progressive growth of each undertaking to keep in step with the growth and expansion of the population, of business and of industry in every city or town.

New projects to be completed in 1964-65 may be of some interest to hon. Members. The following projects are scheduled for completion in the year 1964-65 :

The first extension to Afam Power Station which will add 1 x 17.5MW set to the present 20MW set installed capacity there, will be completed to meet the growing demand for power in the Port Harcourt, Aba and Calabar areas of Eastern Nigeria. The budgeted cost of this extension inclusive of the 4th set which would be commissioned by 1st June, 1965, is £2.2 million.



[ALHAJI MAITAMA SULE]

An additional standby 1 x 5MW gas turbine set will also be installed in Port Harcourt for peak load and to ensure regular supply to the Oil Refinery.

The Kaduna "B" Power Station of 2 x 3-MW is being completed to meet the expected growth in industrial load in Kaduna. At Sokoto new generating plant of 4 x 1.5MW will be installed mainly to supply the power demand of the projected cement factory in Sokoto.

Gusau and Kano are also scheduled to have additional generating plant of 1 x 2MW capacity and 2 x 1.5MW capacity respectively, to meet increasing industrial load.

Ijora and Ibadan power stations will each receive 2 x 7MW generating sets costing about £1.44 million altogether to meet the growing demand for power in the system.

Both Koko and Bacita undertakings should come into operation in the New Year, and Uyo and Ikot Ekpene will be connected to the Afam transmission system. Other undertakings which will come into operation are Nguru, Ghongan and Okitipupa.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East) : On a point of order, since the Minister of Mines and Power has been mentioning places, may I demand as of right that Ohafia be included in the programme.

**The Minister for Ports** (Mr Mbuzulike Amechi) : On a point of order, I just like to inform hon. Members that *Ohafia* is an Ibo word which means bush people.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order, I do not expect point of information by way of point of order from the Ministerial Benches.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** : It is not right to say that *Ohafia* means a collection of bush people. On the contrary, it means the seat of warriors.

**The Deputy Speaker** : The time is running short. If need be, we can declare a linguistic session after the Budget is passed.

**Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule** : I think the warriors cannot work in darkness, they would require electricity.

*II. Projects still in progress for future completion.*

The following projects are still in progress. Work is continuing on them all through the year, but their completion dates lie outside the financial year under consideration.

1. The Lagos-Benin 330KV line costing £3,350,000 and the associated Switchgear and transformers costing £719,128.

2. The Aba-Onitsha 330KV line costing £1,300,000 will link up the Oji and Afam transmission systems.

3. The Ughelli-Benin 132KV line will shortly commence as the contract has been awarded to a Swedish firm and is to connect the projected Delta Power Station to the Benin, Warri and Sapale systems and will enable this complex to be supplied in the future from the new Delta Power Station.

**III. New Projects.**—The following projects are expected to commence during the year 1964-65 :

1. The most important single generation project planned to commence during the year is the Delta Power Station which is scheduled to be started in 1964/65. The estimated cost is £4,597,000, and it is hoped to complete the project by early 1966.

*The Nigerian Coal Corporation* has been through a difficult period during the last three to four years, owing to declining demand and fierce competition from other sources of fuel, notably oil. Losses have unfortunately been sustained. I am glad to be able to say, however, that there has been an improvement in the position in recent months. The price of coal was increased by 10s a ton as from 1st December, 1963—the eighth anniversary of the last increase which took effect on 1st December 1955. Coal now sells at 60s a ton.

Moreover, the present indications are that the fall in demand has been at least arrested. Production has stood at 600,000 tons for the last three years, but the Corporation estimate that 700,000 tons will be required for the year 1964-65, due largely to increasing demand for cement manufacture.

The Corporation's improved financial position has now enabled it to consider the installation of a Washery, financed entirely from its own resources and without financial assistance from Government at all. This would mean a better-sized, cleaner product and, I hope, better satisfied customers.

Coal has played an important role in the past and, with the expanding economy and increasing industrialisation, it still has a vital part to play in the development of the nation. If only the Railway can provide enough waggons for the transportation of coal, the Nigerian Coal Corporation can look to a brighter future.

*Nuclear Power* : A delegation, led by the Parliamentary Secretary of my Ministry, attended the Seventh Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency in September of last year, when Nigeria was accorded full membership of the Agency. As members are aware, the International Atomic Energy Agency is a specialist body of the United Nations, which concerns itself with the uses of Atomic Energy—

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu): I was expecting the Minister of Mines and Power to say more on coal. What are the other efforts being made to utilise coal in other ways? What programme has he for the Coal Industry?

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order, order. Members may appreciate that Ministerial speeches tend to take a fairly long time to read. Some of these interruptions do make their time much longer than necessary.

**Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule** : As members are aware, the International Atomic Energy Agency is a specialist body of the United Nations, which concerns itself with the uses of Atomic Energy for peaceful purposes. We have no plans to manufacture atomic bombs, but we are now utilising the services of the Agency, in association with other Universities, for a number of training and research projects.

In conclusion, may I once more appeal to hon. Members as well as to every member of the public in every sphere of life to please come together so that all our collective efforts may be geared towards the common goal of building a strong Nation for our children. We need to mobilise our efforts to achieve the desired economic independence which alone can guarantee and sustain our political independence. At this stage of our nation's political and economic development, we cannot afford the luxury of playing too much politics with our economy. It is by coming together and setting aside all petty party jealousies and quarrels that we can make this great Nation greater and contribute more to building

the unity of Africa which we all cherish. We need to rededicate ourselves to the service of the Nation, and hence the service of humanity, and render the best service to the Almighty God. And may it be so.

I beg to support.

**The Minister of Aviation** (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe): In rising to support the very able and comprehensive Budget Speech by my hon. Colleague, the Minister of Finance, I would like to take the opportunity of reviewing briefly the part that Aviation has played and must continue to play in our economic development. As one who has only just taken over responsibility for Aviation, I can claim no credit for recent developments in this field but must offer my thanks and congratulations to my Colleague, the Minister of Transport, for the healthy state and efficient organisation of our aviation services and their rapid growth over the past few years. It is my hope that I can sustain these developments and direct them along lines most beneficial to our economy.

Our national airline—the Nigeria Airways—has made great strides in the past year. On the international routes to Europe it introduced the Rolls-Royce Boeing 707 aircraft, and this has proved a very profitable step. But aviation moves ever faster, and in April the Nigeria Airways goes over to the newest and fastest jet transport, the VC.10, which, unlike any other type, will be able to operate direct daylight services between Lagos and London at full load capacity. On its internal services the airline has largely replaced the old DC.3 aircraft by the much faster and larger Fokker Friendship 27, and this aircraft is also used on Regional services along the West African Coast and to Douala and Leopoldville. With other airlines using even larger and faster aircraft on these Regional routes, however, it is necessary for the Nigeria Airways to give consideration to acquiring a medium-haul jet aircraft and the airline is making a close study of available types.

In order to ensure the highest standards of maintenance Nigeria Airways recently completed a new maintenance base at Ikeja which is as modern and well-equipped as any in Africa. I feel we can congratulate the airline on its effort over the past years and look forward to further successes in future.

[DR MBADIWE]

There has also been considerable growth of activity in the light aircraft charter field in Nigeria and the several companies engaged have all expanded their business. Such operations are complementary to those of Nigeria Airways and do much to stimulate air mindedness. Every encouragement will be given to these operators compatible with proper protection of the national airline's interests.

The growth of traffic on the international routes may be judged by the fact that comparative figures for passengers handled at Lagos Airport show an increase of fifteen per cent between September 1962 and September 1963, and the movement of aircraft recorded for Lagos Airport alone has risen from 8,000 in 1960 to over 15,000 in 1963.

Fourteen different international airlines now operate services into and through Nigeria. However, pleased as we are to have many national airlines providing services to and from Nigeria we must here, too, give consideration to the need to obtain reciprocal advantages in order to allow our own airline to expand and obtain its due share of the traffic.

The organisation which controls and provides ground services for all this rapidly growing aerial activity has hitherto been known as the Aviation Department. Originally an independent department, it was at first absorbed into the Ministry of Communications but soon after was transferred to the Ministry of Transport, and its integration into that Ministry was barely completed before my new Ministry was formed.

Through all these vicissitudes its staff have shown a devotion to duty and maintained high standards of efficiency which are essential in an organisation bearing a heavy responsibility for the safety of aircraft and their passengers. Because of the very rapid growth of air activity, the difficulty in recruiting qualified staff and delay in obtaining the necessary funds for improvement of ground services, a considerable back-log of essential work has accumulated. A substantial and immediate effort is required to instal the modern equipments essential to safe and regular operation of aircraft flying up to 600 miles per hour. A programme of work on new installations has been planned and it is intended to ensure that our airports are fully

equipped and properly manned to the standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Nigerianisation to the Aviation Service has not progressed as rapidly as could be desired, but the skills of those who fly aircraft in the air or control them from the ground must be of the very highest standards and are not easily acquired. A number of Nigerian pilots are now flying for Nigeria Airways and more are under training. Nigerians also are taking over the ground services organisation.

Finally, mention must be made of a new school for Aviation which is to be set up in the near future with the assistance of the United Nations Special Fund. The school is expected to provide facilities whereby Nigerians can rapidly be brought up to the necessarily high standards of skill demanded in all types of aviation work. The school will be open to students from other countries in Africa and is intended to provide training for some 250 students when brought up to full capacity. Within five years the training staff will be wholly African and the school will then become the sole responsibility of Nigeria.

This, Mr Speaker, I may say is a brief resume of the activities of my Ministry over the past year and what it is hoped we shall be able to accomplish within the next year and beyond.

Before I take my seat, however, I would like to make the following observation as an afterthought, and that is that I notice that there has been a good amount of speculations in the press about the appointment of a Chairman of the Airways. I want to say that these speculations do not reflect credit to the country; and I also want to say that when it is time to make that appointment it will be made to the best interest of this country. Meanwhile, it is the desire of the Prime Minister that I give close study to the present responsibility now given to me.

As I said earlier, I also have my own dreams of what aviation should look like in an independent Nigeria, and I can assure hon. Members that I have up my sleeves quite a number of things that I would like and wish to explore the possibilities of realising. To mention only a few, for example, it is my desire to see

*House of Representatives Debates*

1353

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

1 APRIL 1964

Bill : Second Reading]

1354

that the country's Capital is provided with a first-class air terminal worthy of its name and reputation in the field of aviation among not only the African States but also the rest of the whole world. I will leave no stone unturned in my efforts to make that possible.

There have been some criticisms also (and very justified ones too) on the losses being sustained by the Nigeria Airways over the past years. It is my intention to look into the possibilities of eliminating these losses and reorientating the national airline in a manner that will permit ultimately of a healthy commercial and gainful operation.

**Alhaji L. Daura** (Daura East) : The Minister had made mention of the necessity of providing a new terminal for Lagos. What about the terminal at Kano ?

**Dr Mbadiwe** : This country is blessed with many Muslims as part of its population, and thousands of them go to Mecca every year. It is my hope that by the next year when they go, all the dignitaries and others who leave this shore will land in that holy land in a Nigerian-owned jet.

Mention has been made of the Kano airport and other airports in the Regional capitals. It is my intention to give a very close study of all observations that have been made by Members. We can only achieve all these lofty ideals and ideas and thus plan boldly for the future in an atmosphere of national stability.

This country has earned an international reputation for its policy of the rule of law, for its stability and for its purposefulness. A few days ago, this country was shaken to its marrow and the very fabric of its foundation received a rude shock on a matter which international observers could have regarded as mere casual event. In the face of this difficulty, the characteristic greatness of this country became demonstrative as never before. The maturity of this Parliament became marked and distinctive, and the leaders of this country proved again to the outside world and to the people of this country that they can take shock and manage that shock along a stable line. But we cannot forget the lessons from these happenings. We must learn as we go on as a country, and once we learn those lessons, we must learn to put them into practice, so that we shall no longer witness or be put to another severe test.

In conclusion, when this country had its independence, it had an Independence Constitution, and a few months ago, when the country entered into the Republican set-up, it had its Republican Constitution. We must be concerned, from the lessons of the past, with national security and nation-building, and in the review of our Constitution, the national security of our country must be placed on the priority list. This is overdue. We cannot please this country if, at any time we take any simple action, we make the nation tremble. This has got to stop. It is only in the climate of stability that our economy can continue to grow and prosper, and in this the nation will find confidence to match with others in the building of a stable and peaceful country.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order, order. I am pleased to inform the House that the Minister of Finance has very kindly agreed not to wind up the debate this morning, but to do that in the afternoon.

**Mr J. U. Udenyi** (Enyong North) : I want to remind the Speaker that this is the last Budget Session of this Parliament. He should therefore give Members time to speak.

**The Minister of Education** (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku) : I think it will be a very splendid conception for Members to be given an account of the activities of the Ministry of Education when the House is fairly full.

Many hon. Members in this House have raised a number of fundamental issues which must be answered first and foremost. The issues have been raised times without number. They have also been answered from one Session to the other. Yet they keep on occurring. I take it that this persistence is due to the fact that hon. Members do desire changes as regards these fundamental issues. Should education be a Federal subject ? Should it be placed on the Federal list ?

Many Members of the House have argued in favour. A few have argued against and called attention to what obtains in Australia, Canada, United States, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. All these are true. Others have spoken of the unifying effect which education will have in the country. They have spoken about the financial situation in which the Regions find themselves, about the preservation of national standards, about nursing

[ONYIBA AJA NWACHUKU]

the next generation in the same intellectual atmosphere. All these are fine. But, Sir, let me assure this honourable House that we are not likely to make this big change in our Constitution unless and until the regional constituents of this Federation strongly desire centralisation of our educational system in whole or in part.

Already, we are doing all that lies in our power to promote national interest. About £1.6 million will be spent on scholarships alone during the coming financial year. Committees in our various Ministries are examining our curriculum. Educational statistics are compiled for the whole Federation on mutually agreed standards. Teachers have the same type of certificates.

Grants are made to the Regions to develop Form VI education and ensure recruitment of students into our universities. Panels of school inspectors are drawn on a federation-wide basis to regularise inspection practices. Our secondary grammar schools take the same school certificate examination. Our universities are adopting similar entry conditions. By and large, it can be stated that we are endeavouring to preserve national standards.

Even in the field of technical education, where we have to catch up with decades of inaction, we are doing all in our power to ensure that the development of the country as a whole is promoted alike in the quantity and quality of technical education.

Various other Members also referred to the increasing volume of unemployment in the country especially among school leavers. This is true and we are grappling with the problem with all the energy at our disposal.

Quite recently, the National Manpower Board conducted a sample survey of unemployment in the urban areas of the country. It was clear that some 250,000 people are probably unemployed and scattered about the whole Federation, drifting into the towns with a Standard VI or Modern II Certificate with little hope of employment.

The Governments of this Federation, meeting at the National Economic Council, are resolved to combat this evil by creating increasing employment opportunities, big or small, and training large numbers in employment as well as in vocational institutions. It

would be idle to pretend that all of them can be placed in secondary vocational institutions. The cost is more prodigious than we can at the moment afford. But we can, at least, find them some form of productive job which will earn them a livelihood, increase the volume of consumer goods we all desire, while they receive training on the job.

This method has been used effectively by many other nations—France, Germany, U.S.S.R. and Japan.

As the gross national product increases and our nation becomes richer and richer, we can introduce greater sophistication into our educational system and bring the workers into employment at a higher level of intellectual attainment. What we are to do urgently is to find more work for the school leavers, train them on the job and give inducement to those firms and corporations which take Government seriously by giving their workers more education while they remain in employment.

It is very gratifying to listen to the manner in which hon. Members commend our plan for technical and vocational training. One hon. Member, in a moment of doubt, wondered if all would not remain paper plans. Let me assure hon. Members of this House that our national plan for technical and vocational education is not a paper plan. Funds have been voted for the putting up of buildings. Teacher Training for technical and vocational education is beginning without fanfare, but definitely in a big way.

The International Labour Organisation is already assisting in one such scheme at Yaba. A system of aptitude testing is being adopted to enable us to place our boys in the schools that best suit their ages, abilities and aptitudes.

I do not believe in window dressing. Let us face realistically the educational problems that confront us. As I see them, they are four in number.

The first is the large number of people we have to educate; the second is what we should *usefully* teach them; the third is how we are to teach them these useful knowledge; and the fourth is how we are to get all the products of our schools into suitable employment.

Experts may call these four problems any names they like, but we are talking about the same thing even though we may be using two different modes of expression.

Let me take the first question—the number of people we have to educate. I should like to work with round figures. If the population of Nigeria is taken as 55 million, about half of that figure is expected to constitute the working population of Nigeria. Our most modest educational ambition is to make one *per cent* of the working population high-level manpower, five *per cent* intermediate manpower, twenty-five *per cent* skilled manpower, and sixty-nine *per cent* unskilled and untrained manpower.

On this basis, we should have 250,000 high-level manpower, 1,250,000 intermediate manpower, 6,250,000 skilled manpower, 17,250,000 unskilled and untrained manpower, while 25,000,000 remain dependent on the 25,000,000 that work.

At the moment, the total high-level manpower in the country does not exceed 20,000. To have one *per cent* of the working population in this country, we need to have 250,000 in order to cover the whole field of human endeavour and that includes our food and housing requirements, our health and clothing, our communication and transportation. 1,000 scholarships a year will bring us to the target after 200 years. 3,000 scholarships at University level per annum may bring it about in 70 years. Together, and that is our present rate of growth, these rates will just enable us to make it in 50 years.

We cannot wait that long while the rest of the world is advancing at a phenomenal rate, sending satellites to the moon, making jet planes, manufacturing more goods than nature ever created. Our National Manpower Board has shown to us that we must make good during the next 30 years or quit the world stage for the greater powers. That is the challenge with which we are faced. We must train, on a cumulative basis, before the close of the century, 250,000 high-level manpower, 1,250,000 intermediate manpower, 6,250,000 skilled manpower.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : Can the hon. Minister explain what he means by high-level manpower ?

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku** : The definition of high-level manpower will take about three minutes. The Member for Degema (Mr Briggs) May wish to come down to my Ministry if he really wants to know what that term means.

It will be necessary for us to expand our facilities during the first 15 years and stabilize them during the next 15 years. No nation is more ready than our own on the continent of Africa for this gigantic task. Japan, U.S.S.R. have broken through in their economic development by the success they achieved in manpower development on a wide range of front. We also can succeed in reaching our targets.

Our population continues to grow year by year making us need more food, more houses, more drugs and chemicals, more clothing and shoes, more transport and communication facilities, more schools and colleges. These needs are great. To meet them, we have to husband our resources and utilise every available external aid for education. For this reason, our foreign policy is un-aligned.

We accept, and shall continue to accept, technical assistance from the East and the West, while making sure that we are not too much entangled with the strings with which the parcels are tied. We cannot afford to be left behind in the twentieth century struggle for survival. It is this challenge to our existence which is the driving force, the motivating power, behind all our educational and manpower development activities.

The next problem is : what are we to teach the boys and girls in our schools ?

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : We can, at least, teach them moral and religious instructions.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku** : I am much obliged to my hon. Friend.

We have seen how useless our education could be when it is not firmly rooted on the ground. For years we have learnt Greek and Latin, but what have we got ?—grief and laughing. We were happy in our ignorance. Our population continues to grow and we have less food to give them. Our cities enlarge and we have not enough rooms in which to sleep. Our hospitals are full and there are not enough drugs. Indeed we have learnt some Arithmetic and some English—two subjects that fit our old colonial status—but are hopelessly inadequate for our role as a sovereign and independent nation.

In order, therefore, to play our new role well, our schools must revise what they teach.

[ONYIBA AJA NWACHUKU]

We need more of agriculture and food processing to feed the nation. We need more architecture and civil engineering to be able to build more houses and roads. We need modern medicine, modern drugs, modern hospitals, and the medical personnel required to keep us in health. We need the textile technologists, the footwear manufacturers. We need the engineers that will put cars and lorries on the roads, trains on the tracks, planes in the air, and ships on the high seas.

We cannot live in the modern world without these necessities. It would be highly stupid to continue to import year by year all that our nation requires.

When, therefore, I speak of curriculum revision in the schools, it should be understood that I do not just mean more Arithmetic but more useful Mathematics, not more Latin but much more French and German and Russian, not just more philosophy but more economics, more banking and more of the mechanism of international exchange.

More training will have to be given in industries and in other forms of employment. More of our people must learn about the techniques of modern surveying, the search for subterranean oil and fuel, the development of power, the extraction of metals, the processing of food, the manufacture of heavy and light chemicals, the production of drugs and electronic equipments. The new national technical educational plan must contain these elements. That is what we have to teach. That is the new curriculum, the revised curriculum.

The third question is how we propose to do these things. Many plans have already been drawn, others are being revised. We already know what numbers we must produce, what we are to teach. We know too how many new buildings we must put up. We know that we cannot achieve our objectives without the teachers who can deliver the goods.

We are therefore training more technical teachers, and retraining other teachers for their new roles. We accept Peace Corps teachers from the United States, Voluntary Graduate teachers from the United Kingdom, German teachers from Western Germany, Canadian teachers of Science and French, Australian teachers, and Indian teachers. We know that the national enrolment figures must be high, so

the Federal Government gives special assistance for the North, for the Delta areas and for the Federal territory of Lagos.

We have planned to diversify our secondary school system so as to rectify the present imbalance between grammar schools and technical high schools. We have set out to give technical and vocational education the expansion it has lacked for decades. We have been expanding our university system. We have set up a National University Commission, and a National Manpower Board to deal with their development on a continuing basis.

While our five universities are growing, we have given many more scholarships tenable in Nigerian and overseas institutions. We have also arranged to train adults not merely in literacy but also in their vocations so as to increase their productive and earning capacities. We have looked hard at the lot of teachers and have realised that the prestige and status of teachers must be enhanced if success is to be achieved. Besides, more teachers must be induced to specialize in Science and technology so as to rescue the nation from disaster.

**Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East):** The Prime Minister was a teacher.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku:** The final question, Sir, is to ensure that all the people we train get good employment. I cannot adequately convey in words the concern of this Government to arrest the growth of unemployment and to create employment opportunities for all. My colleagues, the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Economic Development, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, the Minister of Transport, the Minister of Communication, the Minister of Health, even the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice who must see that unemployed thieves are jailed, are deeply concerned to see all employed. Under the leadership of our hon. Prime Minister we are all dedicated to the task.

The various industries and commercial corporations in the country must create employment opportunities, using the men and women that our schools turn out. In pursuit of this dire necessity the Ministry of Education, in association with the Manpower Board and the Ministry of Labour, is at the moment about to complete a register of high-

House of Representatives Debates

1361

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

1 APRIL 1964

Bill : Second Reading]

1362

level manpower-in-training both in Nigeria and overseas so that, before they finish at school, employment opportunities can be found for them. For, apart from enlightenment, the purpose of all our educational exercise is to produce useful citizen who can work and contribute to the growth of our country.

In conclusion, I venture to hope that every Member of this honourable House will support the Government in the great task that lies ahead so that the remaining years of this century may see us firmly established among the leading nations of the world.

**Mr S. A. Babatunde** (Ilorin Central) : I rise to support this Bill and in doing so I would like to make a few observations. I have to congratulate the Federal Government for encouraging our local industries although we should not expect these new industries to be on the same footing, at least at this stage, as those we have had since the colonial days.

I listened to the Members who criticized the match factory in my town. The reason for this is that as soon as they started this match factory, they embarked on using our local timber to see if we are going to benefit from it. Until this experiment begins to be successful, they do not intend to switch to another type of timber. But they have done that now. They have put heads together at Ibadan with the Conservator of Forests and they have picked out some timber which could be used again until they succeed. This timber is used for making the boxes for the matches as well as the sticks. These people are trying to work for us by using our natural resources.

On the question of excise duty, some time ago on the Floor of this House, many Members criticized the Government for borrowing money abroad and then they say that the Government should not put duty on goods manufactured in Nigeria. In my opinion, if we must not borrow money abroad, we must place taxes on commodities that are manufactured in Nigeria. This is the only way we can be free from foreign domination economically.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** : What kind of economics is that ?

**Mr Babatunde** : For somebody to come here and say that we should not borrow money

is not right because I do not know what such a person wants us to do.

Another point I want to make is that I implore the Federal Government to refrain from meddling in the pools and lottery business. It is the money from this source which is put in our national revenue that has proved a cankerworm to the rest of our money and thereby spoilt it. Apart from being a sin to God to practise it, it carries money away and leads our young people into unnecessary temptations. Pools and lottery business should be discarded and if the Government cannot discard it I pray them to put the money aside and should not mix it with out national money. (Laughter)

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of information. The Member for Ilorin Central (*Mr Babatunde*), I understand, is a lay preacher. He should go back to the pulpit to preach about the devil's money.

**Mr Babatunde** : On the question of communications, I listened to the statements and explanations made by the Minister of Communications ; but we do not want to look on the aspect of the Government losing money on it. Thousands of pounds of our money are being lost. We simply want Post Offices where the people do not conform with the principles laid down by the Government. Whether it is private money or Government money, it is money being lost in Nigeria.

**An hon. Member** : Or pools money ?

**Mr Babatunde** : If they had put pools money into it, it should have been better.

May I appeal to hon. Members to listen attentively to the points I am going to make on the Nigeria Police Force.

I support all the points made by the Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*) when he moved his Motion for the improvement of the conditions of service of our policemen yesterday. I will appeal to the Federal Government to see that our policemen are encouraged. The lesser fry in the Police Force are the people suffering. Hon. Members will be suprised to hear that policemen have to pay some money before they are posted on traffic duties and if they go on the road they have to bring the booty to the senior men.



**Professor Kalu Ezera :** On a point of order, this is a very serious allegation of corruption in one of the important Departments of the Government, and I would not like such an allegation to be frivolously made on the Floor of this House without adequate explanation because we are proud of our policemen. Will the Minister of State for Police Affairs please explain ?

**The Deputy Speaker :** That is a point of admonition.

**Mr Babatunde :** As was promised by the Prime Minister yesterday when the salaries of our policemen are revised they should be given 50 per cent pay rise. The Federal Government should deal with the corrupt people and make the Police Force healthier for the people working there. I spoke about the corrupt practices of our traffic policemen during the last Session of Parliament and it may interest hon. Members to hear that a week after I spoke nineteen policemen were questioned on various offences.

When I made the statement, the Minister said I was making false allegations but I hope he has now been convinced that I was speaking the truth, now that nineteen policemen have been questioned.

We all know the capabilities of our Minister of Aviation. Once we bring a case of dishonesty or rudeness to him he should investigate it and make an example of the culprit. That is the way to do things and the Minister of State for Police Affairs should do the same thing.

At the moment the initial salary of a policeman is £108 *per annum* but a clerical assistant with the same qualifications is paid £150 *per annum*. We all know the nature of the duties of a policeman. While the Clerical Assistant will close early and go home the policeman can start dealing with a case ten minutes to the time of closing and this may go on for four hours or more. My plea is that the Federal Government should give our policemen, especially the people in the lower ranks, a 50 *per cent* salary increase.

Another point which I would like the Federal Government to look into is the reading of the vernacular news on the N.B.C. The Minister of Information should see to it that the Yoruba news readers pronounce their

figures like the Hausa news readers. Whilst the Hausa news readers say "million *hudu*" or "million *biar*" the Yoruba news readers say "*egbedogbon*" which is not clear to the average Yoruba man. These news readers should pronounce what the public will understand.

I listened to the Minister of Education this morning when he said that the Federal Government is not thinking of taking over the responsibility for education from the Regional Governments. I want to implore the Minister of Education to practise what is being done in the North at the moment. Scholarships given to students in the North are concentrated on secondary and higher education. May I tell the Minister of Education that making primary education free is not enough. There are many Nigerians who can pay the school fees of their children in the primary schools. It is the school fees in the secondary schools and universities that are giving our people trouble.

There are many brilliant boys and girls who are denied secondary education because their parents cannot pay their school fees. What is the use of giving somebody free primary education—

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku :** On a point of order, I do not know what the Member for Ilorin Central (*Mr Babatunde*) wants me to take over, whether primary education or secondary education ; because he wants me to take an example from the North.

**Mr Babatunde :** The Federal Government should see to the points I have raised. When the Action Group were in power in the Western Region they made the same mistake of restricting free education to the primary school level. There are even some teachers trained by the Western Regional Government for these free primary education schools without jobs now. Some of the schools opened when the scheme was started have been closed down.

I think it is very important that Members of this honourable House should watch how they speak. I am in support of the Minister of Education when he said that we should not fight on trivial things.

It is worth mentioning that in all the Regions the Regional Governments are trying as much as possible to co-operate with the Opposition. Hon. Members would notice

*House of Representatives Debates*

1365

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

1 APRIL 1964

Bill : Second Reading]

1366

that the contributions of Alhaji Ibrahim Imam at the last Budget Meeting of the Northern House of Assembly were constructive. Dr Chike Obi has been a Member of this House before and we know how he behaves, but we can all see that he is trying to co-operate with the Premier of the East, Dr Okpara. It is only the Member for Jemgba (*Mr Tarka*) who keeps on opposing the Federal Government, hoping that he can get the Middle Belt State. The people in the supposed Middle Belt area should be left alone to say what they want.

**The Deputy Speaker :** It is now one o'clock and sitting is suspended till three o'clock.

*Sitting suspended : 1.00 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3.00 p.m.*

**Mr Babatunde :** As I was trying to say in the morning, I want it known that I support most of the points made during this Second Reading of this Bill. I have always said in this House that Ministers never come here to ask us to do their thinking for them. They only come here after they have done all the thinking involved with all the instruments at their disposal. So, I want Members to bear in mind that Ministers only bring matters up here after doing everything possible to make a good job of it. That is why the statements made by the Ministers of Education and Aviation have received my admiration. If we make education a Federal subject, all our funds will be exhausted in one year without our achieving our objective.

The next point is unemployment which concerns the Ministry of Labour. There is unemployment everywhere in the world. It has been so since the beginning of time and it will ever remain so. All we can do is to lessen it. We cannot eradicate it completely. So the statement that everybody must be employed is not true to life. We will be deceiving ourselves if we look forward to a day when everybody in this country will either be a Member of Parliament, a Parliamentary Secretary, a Permanent Secretary or a very highly paid person. The Civil Service is not the only avenue of employment.

I now wish to talk about the Ministry of Works and Surveys. Last year we had many roads washed away by rain and floods, but we have never heard that the Minister took a

trip along those roads to see for himself what their conditions are. That is not the best way to take care of our roads. After all he should take care of all the roads and not just the roads in Lagos.

Another point is that when people in his Ministry cut across the roads to bury pipes, they leave the roads in broken conditions for many weeks, and thus worsen the already bad roads. What should have cost only a few pounds is left for weeks and in the end it runs into hundreds of pounds.

I am sorry the Minister of Mines and Power is not here at the moment, but I know his men are here to take notes for him. We have been told that there will be some provision in the budget for the development of power resources. When such a provision is made, I would like the Minister to see to it that uniform rates for electricity are paid everywhere in the country.

For instance here in Lagos people pay three pence per unit for electricity, whereas we pay five pence per unit at Ilorin. No one can argue that because the Corporation has bought steel poles with which they convey electricity to Ilorin and neighbouring Ogbomosh, that should be a substitute for a power house. In a power house the expenditure is recurrent, but that of the steel poles is not recurrent. The poles have been bought and put in the bushes, and that is all. So the argument that even though Ogbomosh and Ilorin have no power houses the poles are equally costly, is very, very untenable.

**An hon. Member :** Is the hon. Gentleman from Ogbomosh?

**Mr Babatunde :** I am from Ilorin.

**An hon. Member :** That is from the Western Region?

**Mr Babatunde :** I have not come here to teach the hon. Member Geography in this House. I am a Northerner.

**An hon. Member :** Is he still a teacher?

**Mr Babatunde :** I have never been a teacher and I will never be one. That will not prevent me from making my points.

So, as we are having this development, we should try to make these rates uniform through-

[MR BABATUNDE]

out the country. If we have such amenities we should try to encourage industry. This power will be used for baking, grinding machines and so on. But on the other hand, if different rates are paid in different places, as is the case now, people may decide to abandon the general power and resort to their own private plants.

I do not think there is any law forbidding any shopkeeper, for example, from disconnecting the electricity supply in his shop and buying a tilly lamp, but if our Government is democratic then something must be done to make the rates of payment for electricity in all areas equal.

The remark I was making about our Police Force this morning was that now that the expatriate head of that Force has left this country and a Nigerian has taken over as the head of our Police Force something should be done to right the wrongs in the Force. To begin with the Police should be encouraged. These hardworking men and women are started on a salary of about £9 per month while Clerical Assistants and Clerks are started with a salary of about £12 to £15 per month.

Our Police have proved their merit in the Congo and by their general performances and character they have shown themselves as responsible and conscientious officers. If we all agree that these officers deserve all these praises then we should give them encouraging salaries; perhaps that may save them from the habitual corruption so deep-rooted in the Police Force.

I cannot remember anything, by way of salary improvement, that has been done for our Police since about six years from now. For all their brilliant performances in the Congo all they were given was a nasty badge. I do not know what that badge on their chest is going to earn them—

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North): This mention of habitual corruption by the Member for Ilorin Central (*Mr Babatunde*) is rather a serious allegation against our Police. It so happens that the Minister of State responsible for Police matters, Mr Olarewaju, is here and I am sure he would like to confirm or deny whether there is habitual corruption in the Police Force. The charge is too serious.

**Mr Speaker**: This is an unnecessary interruption.

**Mr Babatunde**: I do not belong to the group of people who know a thing and pretend not to be aware of its existence. It is known to everybody that half of the taxis in Lagos, with fictitious taxi marks on them, belong to members of our Police Force. If I may be allowed the loyal services of about six policemen I shall, with their co-operation, bring to the Floor of this House, before the end of the morning session tomorrow, ten other police officers guilty of running taxis under fictitious names.

My point is that now that we have a Nigerian at the head of our Police Force he should try to eradicate all these malpractices. If the Police want more money we should give them. It is, however, no use for us to pretend not to be aware of these evils existing in our Police Force. There are times when some of us have to travel by lorries to our towns and what we see practised by the lorry drivers and our policemen baffles us. Often one sees the lorry driver put money just at the roadside for the policeman to pick up when we must have departed—

**Minister of State** (Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju): I would like to say that in every barrel there are rotten apples. Bribery and corruption in our Police Force is, however, not as serious as the hon. Member for Ilorin Central (*Mr Babatunde*) would want us to believe.

The Force itself does not close its eyes to these things, and to eradicate bribery and corruption among the members of our Police Force the X-Squad has been set up and there is no doubt that this section of the Police is doing the best in its power to carry out its assignment.

**Mr Babatunde**: Well, Mr Speaker, when during the last Session but one I spoke in this vein a raid was carried out and nineteen policemen were caught in only one day. I do not know why the activities of the X-Squad have been limited to Lagos alone and not extended to Ilorin and all the other parts of the Federation.

**Mr Olarewaju**: The operations of the X-Squad are extended to the whole Federation and we need the co-operation of the public to enable this Squad to carry out their duties efficiently.

House of Representatives Debates

1369

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

1 APRIL 1964

Bill : Second Reading]

1370

**Mr Babatunde** : All I have been saying is my own amount of co-operation to enable the Police Force as a whole to perform its duties thoroughly well. Hon. Members should tell our Ministers what they can see and the Ministers cannot see, and such things are many.

I am advocating a better salary for the members of our Police Force. Maybe this will stop them from molesting lorry drivers from whom they collect money for their senior ones before they are attached to the Traffic Division of the Force.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : I am sorry to interrupt my hon. Friend the Member for Ilorin Central, but I think he has travelled much too far from the debate on the Budget Speech. I remember that before we adjourned in the morning he spent pretty fifteen minutes on the Police alone. Knowing fully well that his brother from Ilorin is the *Oga Olopa* if he has any grievances with the Police I think he should settle such grievances at home with his brother and not come here to waste our time.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** : On a point of order, the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) used the words "*Oga Olopa*" the meaning of which we do not know. The official language here is English.

**Mr Speaker** : There is no need to be bitter about this.

**Mr Babatunde** : I think I have authority on my speech on the Budget to keep to one and only one subject if I think that subject should be emphasised. The time I spend on such a subject is no business of any Member. The important thing is that I should not exceed my time limit and I am sure the Speaker is looking after that.

We should be grateful to God in this country for giving to us such a Head of State as Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe and such a Head of Government as Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, our able Prime Minister. These are God-sent men and but for them it is not unlikely that there would have been explosions in this Parliament. Even in this session of Parliament it looks to me as if there is a very heavy rain going to fall. But though the cloud appears so heavy and the rain so threatening it never

falls. I appeal to hon. Members to stop talking in a manner that can cause disruption in this House.

I beg to support.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji** (Egba East) : This is the last Budget meeting in the life of this hon. House and I think that it is only proper that we should take stock of what happened in the past year. We should examine whether those of us who have been put in authority as Ministers have discharged their duties creditably and whether those of us who are Floor Members in this House have given them our support when it was necessary or criticised them when criticism was due, or made amendments in their proposals in the interest of the nation.

I expected that the Minister of Finance, when he made his Budget Speech, would have taken stock of what he has done in all these years that he has been Minister of Finance in this present life of the House. I think it is not too late for him to give us some information which will give us an idea of where we have reached so far since we started at the beginning of 1960.

There are a number of things which we would like to hear from the Minister of Finance. We would like him to tell us what the rise in our recurrent expenditure has been since 1960 ; we would like him to tell us what the rise in our revenue has been since 1960 ; we would like him to tell us what the rise in our capital expenditure has been, that is, how much the Government has actually spent not how much has been voted and has lapsed. We would like to know, Sir, what is the cost of the infrastructure which is being carried on in the country with a view to building a sound foundation for a big take-off of our industrial development. We would like to know what is likely to be the financial benefit from the infrastructure. We would also like to know the volume of overseas capital that has come into the country both in the public and in the private sectors.

We would like to know what the rise in our *per capita* income is from 1960 to now and what the rise in our cost of living is from 1960 to now. I have no doubt that the Minister of Finance has done very good work in these five years.

[CHIEF ROSIJI]

In spite of all the criticisms,—some justified, some arising out of a feeling that is not particularly objective and not in the interest of the nation—I think that by and large the Minister of Finance has improved the finances of this nation and that is what is important to us as a nation. There is no point in our being petty over little things by seeing the tree and losing sight of the wood. If the above data were given by the Minister of Finance and the necessary conclusions were drawn by him to show what real progress this nation has made in the economic and financial spheres, I think we might have good reasons to pat ourselves on the back.

Whether or not the improvement is such that could not have been improved upon, is a different matter because improve, we must. If we do not, then it means we are moving back ; and since it is certain that we are not moving back, I think we can safely say that we have improved. But have we done the best that we should have done in these five years ? That is an important question which the Minister of Finance may well answer in his winding up.

The speech of the Minister of Finance has touched on a number of things which are very important. I think that having regard to the future and having regard to the development which we all want for this country, probably the most important is the short-fall in the external finance which is required for the current Six-Year Development Programme. The short-fall up till now is serious, but may be some miracle will still happen before the next year runs out. We always hope for miracles, but we should not have trust in miracles. It is important for us to hope but not to trust in miracles and that is why it is important that this nation should tighten its belt. We should help ourselves with our own hands which is the motto of a new organisation which I have the good fortune to head in this honourable House—

**Several hon. Members :** Which organisation is that ?

**Chief Rosiji :** I think that it is a very important matter for us not to rely too heavily on other people, but for us to go forward and help ourselves. When we help ourselves, other people will come to our aid.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) :** With due respect, the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) is somebody I highly respect and I am listening to his views with attention. He is now talking of an organisation he heads and I used to know him as an Action Grouper before he joined the U.P.P. I wonder whether he is speaking as a Member of the Opposition or as a Member of the Government. I cannot understand him.

**Mr Speaker :** Order. I cannot answer this question.

**Chief Rosiji :** As I was saying, the question of short-fall in the external finance is important to our development and what we should try to do is not to rely on other people so heavily but to rely on our efforts.

I think it is a miscalculation on the part of Government that we should rely on external finance to the same extent as we should rely on our own efforts because in the Development Programme, the financing is supposed to be 50-50-50 from outside and 50 from within our own country. This, I think, is a mistake and the earlier the Government admits the fact that they have miscalculated and recalculate the finances of the Development Programme the better.

There are, of course, many things which are responsible for the tardiness with which foreign capital has been coming to the country. Many have their own various reasons, depending on what part of the world are from, their political prejudices, their economic set up, their economic greed and avarice and all sorts of things.

I think that for all the possible investors in Nigeria, it is important that they should have an atmosphere of peace, quiet and tranquillity in which serious work is done with the co-operation of all the members of our community.

The question of stability, economic, political and other things concerning this country is of great importance to the coming into the country of financial help from overseas. It is therefore important that we should examine ourselves in some respects and see whether or not we are all contributing to this stability in country. I think that stability can only exist in the country when every section of the country lives together with the other sections in peace and harmony.

House of Representatives Debates

1373

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

1 APRIL 1964

Bill : Second Reading]

1374

Stability can only arise when every region in this country has the respect that is due to it and stability can arise when we have respect for one another; not when any section of the population tends to make the other section its own appendage. This matter has been misunderstood quite often especially from speeches that have been made on the Floor of this House and from reports that have been in the press. I think it is high time that I tried to state the views of my party, the N.N.D.P.—Nigerian National Democratic Party—Nigeria National Democratic Party—

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (Ibarapa): On a point of order, the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) is talking of a party that is not in this House. He appears to be the only one because there is no other N.N.D.P. Member on the Bench. I do not think that party exists in the Federal House, although it may exist in one section of the country.

**Mr Speaker**: You are only wasting our valuable time.

**Chief Rosiji**: I hope people will keep their heads while I speak some home truths.

As I was saying, we all need to watch our actions, utterances, and ambitions in the interest of the unity and stability of this country. We of the N.N.D.P., and in particular we who speak for the Western Region—(*Interruptions*). We have no ambition whatever to make any section of the country an appendage of our selves. And we do not want any part or any section of the country to make an appendage of us. We will do all that lies in our power to prevent any people making Western Region their appendage.

**Mr S. A. Babatunde** (Ilorin Central): On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I crave your indulgence to say on behalf of the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) that if the N.C.N.C. and the Action Group cannot get into a holy marriage, they should not bother the N.N.D.P.

**Chief Rosiji**: What we require in Nigeria is mutual respect for one another. We all want to live together in peace and quiet. We all want every section of this country to have its just due and share. It must not be misunderstood that we want another people to be deprived of their just dues.

**Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa** (Benin West): On a point of order, it would be interesting for this House to know from the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) how he felt about these ideals of his when the Mid-West was suffering under him.

**Mr Speaker**: Surely this will not be interesting to the House.

**Chief Rosiji**: I did not intend to raise all this controversy. I want to state some simple truth. Whether you like it or not you have to take it. Nobody is your slave here. You will not dictate to anybody in this country. You must understand that right now.

**Mr Speaker**: I do hope hon. Members will desist from provocative interruptions.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): On a point of order, I hope considering your own dignity and your personality, Mr Speaker, that this Parliament is the greatest Parliament of this country.

In our own way of life when people meet for serious matters they do not listen to everybody. In my place we do not listen to the head of thieves. He cannot admonish us for stealing. We always take advice from people who are real. We have heard the President of the Federation and the Prime Minister. They have both advised us; but for the head of a gang of thieves to come here to admonish us, we cannot take that.

**Mr Speaker**: I had never expected that after my ruling that Members should avoid provocative interruptions that the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) would make this statement.

**Chief Rosiji**: The hon. Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) has said something here which has gone into the record of the *Hansard*. He has referred to me as the head of a gang of thieves. I would like him to withdraw that statement or else there will be trouble.

**Mr Speaker**: Certainly, I will be more strict. I do not like to but Members should realise that I can be.

**Chief Rosiji**: Sir, I crave your indulgence, but to be described as the head of the gang of thieves.....

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. I cannot imagine any more hon. Members of Parliament who are experienced and regarded as gentlemen than the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) and the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*).

After all both of you should be able to take some brick bats from each other. If you cannot then what is the essence of humour in Parliament.

**Chief Rosiji :** If you put it that way, Sir, then I bow to your ruling, but I would like to observe further that the incidents that have taken place within the last five minutes are a justification of the things I have been trying to say. We all in this country must learn to live together. If any section thinks that we can live together by cheating others, by making others their appendage, the earlier they stopped thinking that way, the better, because it does not help.

**Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) :** On a point of order, the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) is irrelevant, he is imputing motives.

**Mr Speaker :** Will hon. Members kindly allow me to be the judge of minor breaches of order.

**Chief Rosiji :** I said earlier that mutual respect is of the utmost importance in order to get the stability which we require in this country for the proper atmosphere for overseas investments. The calm and tranquillity which we require in this country will come when everybody minds his own business. It is not the duty of any section of this country to choose the leader of another section. It is not the business of any busybody in this country, or of any would-be-dictator or would-be-dominators to choose for another section a man who they consider will dance to their tune.

**Chief Abii :** On a point of order, I humbly appeal to you, Sir, because you have ruled that the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) should speak on the Budget. The hon. Member is not worthy to admonish anybody in this country. The Prime Minister has spoken to us. The Regional Premiers and some elderly men have also spoken to us.

The Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) is the cause of all the troubles in this country. We do not want to listen to him. He was the

General Secretary of the Action Group and he put his leader into jail. He has been deceiving everybody in this country. We do not want to listen to him. If you want us to walk out, we will walk out. Who is he advising ?

**Mr Speaker :** I thought the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) had said quite enough. After all there are 312 Members in this House who wish to speak, but his idea of walking out is very deplorable.

**Chief Abii :** I am sorry, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. The hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) should please co-operate.

**Chief Rosiji :** I seek your protection. I have the freedom to make a point in this House about the financial aspect of this country. Now, those of us who come from the Western Region know our leaders. If we want any of our leaders to be released, we will say so. It is not for any people from anywhere else to want somebody released to come and lead other people. Let them mind their own business.

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. Really Members should appreciate that I must in any case allow the Opposition minority to have their say in Parliament and it is in view of this that I give a certain amount of latitude to the Opposition Members when they are speaking.

The Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*) is one of the spokesmen of the Opposition. I think we should allow him to have his say. I should be trusted by the minority to protect their interests in any case. After all, I come from the majority and that will not make me pay less heed to the rights of the minority.

**Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa (Benin West) :** On a point of order, with due deference to the hon. Member as a Member of this Parliament and as a lawyer, I must say that his last reference was a total breach of the Standing Orders of this House. The matter he was referring to by implication is *sub judice*.

**Mr Speaker :** If Members will only repose a little bit of confidence in me, I think I shall be able to deal with Chief Rosiji's breach.

**Chief Rosiji :** Since the meeting of this House began, this is the first time I am making a speech. Many people who have spoken here have said more provocative things than I have said, but I did not tackle anybody. I wish Members would let me have my say.

The economic development of this country and the financial progress of this nation depend not so much on the industries which we set up here but in more ways than one, on the amount of money which we are able to receive for our commodities.

It has been said quite often, and I think quite properly too, that emphasis has been put on investments and aids coming from outside but I think that more important than anything else is our receiving for our efforts in our country, particularly our efforts on the farms, adequate value for those efforts.

It will be infinitely more helpful for this country if our Government is to put down its foot and co-operate with other Governments of underdeveloped countries with a view to receiving fair prices for the commodities we sell.

In this connection, I think that this honourable House must pay tribute to our Minister of Commerce and Industry for the downright, honest, down to earth and courageous speech of leadership which he made in Geneva. That speech represents what other nations which have been suffering the way we do have been having in their minds to say but could not say it out. Nigeria has taken the lead in that direction and we must press on and maintain that leadership.

According to the Minister of Commerce and Industry, humanity is indivisible. If some people are getting richer while others are getting poorer, the world can never be at peace. The Government should follow up this right step in the right direction not only in Geneva but also in any other place where they can do so.

At a diplomatic or governmental level or at conferences, the Government should exert some pressure so that the people who are using us as slaves to maintain their economy, to maintain the higher standard of living of their people, will have a change of heart.

It will pay us better to have more value from the prices of our commodities than to have aid from anybody. There is a lot to be done in

this. I know that the Government is up against very difficult odds. I know that the people on the other side have the trump cards in their hands but if world opinion is sufficiently mobilised, I have no doubt that it would have a salutary effect.

We have got some resources in this country—mineral, agricultural and some financial resources. I think it is important for us first of all to make the best possible use of these resources before we start talking of receiving aid from outside. We have a great leeway to make up in bringing ourselves to such a standard where our efforts can yield some quantity of fruit as similar efforts yield in other countries.

Quite often, our people go to work and spend six, seven or eight hours but what they produce is not as much as what is produced in some other countries by some other people who spend only one or two hours at work.

The inefficiency in our country must be tackled. If we shut our eyes to the inefficiency in this country, we cannot improve. Our labour seems not to be worth what it should be worth and that is because there is not the efficiency to back it up.

We know that the Government is setting up institutions and granting scholarships and training people in their jobs in order to improve efficiency but though all these things are all right, in themselves, they alone cannot achieve the efficiency which we want. What we want more than anything else is a change of mind by our own people and a determination to be efficient.

If we do not have the determination to be efficient and be more productive, the effort which the Government is making will not bear the fullest fruits.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : The Member for Kano East (*Alhaji Aminu Kano*) and the Member for Uyo South West (*Mr I. A. Brown*) are reading the Daily Sketch in the House. It is against the Standing Orders.

**Mr Speaker :** Will the hon. Members put the *Sketch* away please.

**Chief Rosiji :** There are other things which we can do to preserve some of these resources and save from wastage. We have to set up in our development programme a list of priori-



[CHIEF ROSIJI]

ties. It has been said here by the Minister of Finance that this country is a free country where people are free to come and set up industries. But there should not be too much freedom. There should be planned economy, and we must have our priorities of industries and priorities of development. Otherwise, the little money which we have will go into developing things which are not necessary, things which will not give us the uplift which we require.

People will invest money—and that is the way of investors—in things which will yield profit for them. That may be in the best interest of the investors, but it is not in the best interest of the nation. The best interest of the investors and that of the nation should be brought together and a compromise arrives at. Certainly there must be some priorities for investment.

People who want to invest money to set up industries in Nigeria should apply to the Government and say that they want to set up such and such industries and ask if they are allowed to do so at that stage. The Government, having drawn up its priorities, will be able to advise them.

In fact, it will be better if the Government publishes its priorities so that everybody knows before hand. We will find that investors will come into the country and invest in those sectors in which the Government wants them to invest. This is because they will know fully well that the Government having drawn up such a list will give them all the protection and all the assistance which they require in order that their business may succeed.

**Alhaji Aminu Kano :** The Minister of Finance is improperly dressed. He is not wearing his cap.

**Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh :** If the Alhaji were here last night he would have known that I was properly dressed last night.

**Mr Speaker :** Last night the Minister of Finance (*Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh*) was as a "stranger".

**An hon. Member :** He wore a suit.

**Chief Rosiji :** A suit !

Coming back to my point, I do not want to be misunderstood in the proposals I am making. I am not referring to the public sector alone. I am referring both to the public and the private sectors of investment in the country.

**Mr J. U. Udenyi (Enyong North) :** The Member speaking started at twenty minutes past three and now it is past four. So he has exhausted his time. Other Members are anxious to speak.

**Mr Speaker :** Quite a lot of his time was wasted by interruptions. I must allow him to have the correct time. Will the hon. Member please try to wind up.

**Chief Rosiji :** I would like to speak about the new Industrial Development Bank which is a very important development in the country. Having regard to shortage of private capital in the country, judicious use must be made of the funds of this Bank. The funds of the Bank must be diluted with foreign capital in every case in order to make the money go a long way and ensure success.

If there is going to be any lending of money by this bank the money should be lent to indigenous people and not to overseas people.

The bank should be prepared to give guarantee of machinery and equipment that will be invested in this country. The Industrial Bank should participate in the equity capital of enterprises only on the invitation of the indigenous people. It should also ascertain the rate of interest that will be charged where there is lending must be very low indeed.

Then there are some conditions which will militate against industrial development in the country. The first is the slowness of Government Departments for example, to grant pioneer status and certificate and duty relief; other factors relate to the power failures about which the Minister of Mines and Power spoke of this morning and the fluctuation of the voltage of power; the shortage of railway rolling stock and the traffic congestion in the country, especially between Apapa and Lagos, which costs this country millions of pounds every year.

The Minister of Works, I know, wants to build a second bridge. But the second bridge will not solve the problem. What will solve the problem is an over-head bridge at the level

crossing and also at the junction of the Seven-Up Bottling Plant. Once that is done, there will be through traffic, and the saving of our economy will be effected to a certain extent.

I beg to support.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) :** I am one of those who certainly congratulated the Minister of Finance for the way in which he delivered his Budget Speech, and the brilliance of the language.

Looked at from the literary point of view, the 1964 Budget Speech of the Minister of Finance is by and large a collection of brilliant literatures on the governmental financial systems. But it does not require the astuteness or wizardry of an expert in economics to see that the Speech contains a large number of significant admissions of failures in the fiscal policy of the Federal Government.

To substantiate this point, I need only quote certain statements of fact in the Speech. With your permission I will refer to the following pages of the Minister's Speech. First I refer to page three where the Minister of Finance stated that :

*A review of the performance in the first year of the Plan (that is the Six-Year Development 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 16 per cent did come.*

Sixteen per cent of the expected £50 million amounts to just about £8 million in the first year and in this connection I would respectfully refer this House to page 48 of the First Progress Report of the Federal Government Development Programme 1962-68, from the heading "External Finance".

*The prospects and implications of external finance have already been discussed in detail in Chapter 1. Out of the total capital expenditure of £41 million by the Federal Government in 1962-63 only about £5 million came from external sources. This meant that the external finance component of the capital expenditure in the first year of the Plan amounted to only about fourteen per cent thus falling far short of the percentage assumed in the Plan. Nevertheless, for reasons given in Chapter 1, too much should not be read into this initial shortfall. It is still too early to*

*pass final judgement on the Plan's basic assumption that fifty per cent of the resources required would come from external sources.*

Now, we come to the most dangerous point or trend, and I continue to quote :

*"The substantial short-fall 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 substitution involved the drawing down of reserves accumulated in past years. Nigeria's total external reserves fell by over £50 million during the past two years of the plan. The use of these reserves has therefore been more rapid than was expected". I repeat, "The use of these reserves has therefore been more rapid than was expected. The Federal Government realised over £10 million of its external reserves in 1962-63 to finance its capital expenditure for that year. This doubles the average of £5 million per year assumed in the plan. If the present rate of drawing down external reserves is maintained the estimated reserves will be exhausted before the end of the third year of the plan. (That is next year). This implies an increasing reliance on other sources for financing the Federal Programme".*

Well, to emphasise the dangerous nature of this portion of the Report, the Minister himself stated in the last two paragraphs of page 13 of his Speech, and I ask for your permission, Mr Speaker, to quote again :

*"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 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, reserve 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.*

[CHIEF AKIN-OLUGBADE]

Well, Mr Speaker, I have sought your permission to quote these passages so extensively because the indications are laid down here that if the drawing is continued from our external reserves, by the end of next year we shall have no external reserve at all, and as a result of which our currency will have no backing outside Nigeria and then, we shall be bankrupt. That is the answer.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : As the Member for Egba South (Chief Akin-Olugbade) is bankrupt.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : This is a serious matter, Mr Minister of Finance.

There is another admission of failure at page 8 of the Minister's Speech, where he said, and I quote :

*"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."*

He went further on page 9 where he was talking about savings certificates and premiums, as follows :

*"Sales of these securities, particularly of premium bonds, have proved rather disappointing—"*

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : On a point of order, quite honestly, I do not know when my hon. Friend, the Member for Egba South (Chief Akin-Olugbade) will make his own speech and stop quoting from my own.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : I am quoting the Minister's admission of failure in the fiscal policy of the Government. I owe it a duty to this House to present the case as I see it, just as the Minister owes it a duty to present it as he sees it. But I must tell the truth no matter whose ox is goad.

As I was saying, the Minister said :

*"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."*

Those were his own words.

He went further to admit another failure at page 12 of the same Speech, and I 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."*

Finally, I would refer you, Mr Speaker, to page 23 of the Speech.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : This man likes me very much.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : Yes, the Minister is my Christian brother.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : Yes I know that that is the only thing that binds Chief Akin-Olugbade, Chief Akintola and myself together.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : No, Akintola is out of it. He is a Pagan now.

The Minister at page 23 says as follows :

*"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."*

Then he went further :

*"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".*  
These, I respectfully submit, are admissions

of failure. We know that many Ministers, when attending their political meetings either in Enugu or Kano or Ibadan use Government vehicles. Whenever they go to see the progress of their new buildings either at Abeokuta or Ibadan or Port Harcourt, they use Government vehicles and claim Transport allowances. This is the sort of thing they are doing.

**Mr Speaker :** These are details which should better be left till the Committee Stage.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** These revelations are truly alarming. For the past four years—

**Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa (Benin West) :** On a point of order, on a number of occasions our respected Prime Minister has told us in this House that it is not wise for Members to make indiscriminate allegations—allegations they cannot buttress with facts. But my hon. Friend, the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) is tempted to be talking out of imagination. He has not got any facts, and if he has, this is not the proper forum to present them. The facts should either have been presented to the Prime Minister or to the Minister particularly concerned.

Thank you, Mr Speaker. Everybody in this House knows that the Prime Minister himself uses only two cars. For the past two years I have been seeing him using only two cars. In fact, he has been using one for over a year, but there are Ministers here whom I see in four or five cars going about the Federal territory and the Federation as a whole.

**Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh :** On a point of order, it is humanly impossible for one Minister to be in four or five cars at the same time. We cannot be amphibious.

**Mr Speaker :** Order. I think these details should be left to the Committee Stage.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** For the past four years, we on the Opposition side in this House have persistently warned the Government of the consequences of reckless and extravagant fiscal policy. We have always stressed that at the rate things are going, this nation will soon come face to face with bankruptcy. Within only two years our external reserves fell by

£50m., leaving only a balance of £94m. That was up to December last. Only God knows how much has been withdrawn again! If the present rate of fall continues, the estimated reserve will be exhausted before the end of the third year of the Plan.

The failures honestly confessed by the Minister of Finance are the effects of certain causes, and I do not think he takes into consideration the law of cause and effect. The law of cause and effect is immutable. The Minister has cleverly dodged stating the causes of the fiscal failures excepting where he said, at page 3 of his speech, that the prospective lenders needed time to make up their minds. He could have said that to the marines, anyway.

Without being immodest or pedantic, I will venture to give a few of the causes of the failures, as follows :

One of the reasons why there have been fiscal failures on the part of the Federal Government is the senseless issue of Commissions of Inquiry and the vicious methods of conducting them which thoroughly discredited particularly all our political leaders and well-known businessmen in this country.

The second cause is the portrayal of Nigerians to the outside world as dishonest and corrupt people.

The third cause is the lack of constructive programme which should have been placed before the two political parties in the Coalition, before they assumed office in 1960. The terms of the Coalition are well-known to every Member of this House to have dealt mainly with the share of ministerial posts and the destruction of the Opposition. This shows that a nation, like a human-being, cannot succeed in doing two contradictory things at one and the same time. You cannot set out to build while you are destroying; you cannot set out to create when you are crushing down; you cannot set out to replenish when you are demolishing, nor can you replace when you are displacing.

The fourth cause of the fiscal failure, I will say, is the demand for 10 per cent commission from prospective foreign investors as was disclosed in a secret report published in Europe recently and by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education, Mr D. C. Ugwu.

[CHIEF AKIN OLUGBADE]

The fifth cause is the insistence of certain Ministers and officials in key posts in this country that their nominees must be given free shares and post of directors in proposed industries to be established in this country.

The sixth is the wanton disregard of the rule of law as evidenced by the rejection, with impunity, of the decision of the Privy Council in the Adegbenro-Akintola case. Any sensible foreign investors will naturally like to be assured that, should they have any cause to refer a dispute between them and the Nigerian Government to the Court, the decision of the Court will be honoured, and that no retrospective law will be passed to deprive them of the fruits of the judgment.

The seventh cause is the exploitation of foreign missions in this country by certain Ministers, certain political leaders and certain highly placed civil servants who are the biggest landlords of practically all the diplomatic staff in this country to-day.

The eighth cause is the disregard of the rights of the hard-working workers in this country. I do not wish to refer to the Morgan Wages Commission, although the Minister of Finance made certain references to say what it will cost the country if their wages were increased either by one *per cent*, 5 *per cent*, 10 *per cent*, 20 *per cent* or 25 *per cent*. He gave a number of reasons in the speech or a number of sources from which the amount could be met and told us the only possible source from which the demand could be met. But that is his own opinion. There are other sources. If he had consulted his expert economists, they would have told him what he could explore in order to meet the demands of the workers.

The last, but not the least, cause is the unnecessary political crises and tensions being actively aided and abetted by some inordinately ambitious political leaders in all the major political parties in this country not even excluding my own, though my own party has been completely purged now.

These are some of the evils and the tale of woe which permeate the speech christened by the Minister of Finance as the *National Budget*. As a result of these evil causes, the Six-Year Development Plan is, to face the facts, as

good as dead. If we have to draw on our external reserve in order to carry out the Six-Year Development Plan, we better wind up. In fact, the Minister himself said in his speech that most of the important projects will have to be halted.

We know the causes and we have seen the effect. What are the remedies? The effect is the failures. It has been our consistent practice—we the Members of the Action Group on the Opposition Bench—to suggest remedies. I have suggested remedies to failures before, and in fairness to many of our Ministers in the Federal Government, I must say that most of our suggestions have always been accepted and acted upon, even though without some grateful acknowledgement. One such example is the establishment of the Industrial Development Bank. I had been advocating its establishment since 1961. I feel very, very happy that the Minister of Finance has seen to it that the Industrial Development Bank has been established. There are others which he has taken in good faith and acted upon, but that does not mean that we should not point out to this House, where he himself honestly admitted, that the fiscal policy of the Government had failed. After all, an honest confession is good food for the soul.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** On a point of order, will my hon. Friend speak some English? There is no "physical" policy of the Government but "fiscal" policy of the Government.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** I like my hon. Friend's joke. When he came into the House this afternoon, he was looking quite happy with a touch of face-powder on him.

I would, with all humility, suggest certain remedies, particularly to our respected Prime Minister. I think, in order to remove some of these evil causes of the failures in our fiscal policy, some of our Ministers who are actively competing with businessmen in the trade of this country should be asked to stop.

I would go further to suggest that the palaces built for Ministers at Ikoyi and Onikan should be let out to commercial houses. If they are let out they will bring in plenty of money. At least one would get three to four thousands of pounds for each of the big houses. Most of our Ministers are well off enough to own their

House of Representatives Debates

1389

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

1 APRIL 1964

Bill : Second Reading]

1390

own houses. Why can our Ministers not live among their people? Why are they living in reservation areas? The people voted them into power. Why can our Minister not live among their own people? If a Minister likes to relax he can build a country-house where he can go every week-end. Why are our Ministers living in palaces? They are not Europeans.

I say that our Ministers should set good example in the use of Government vehicles, plant and equipment. I would suggest further that one method of bringing in money is for the Government to sell out the leasehold properties at Yaba, Surulere, Apapa, and other places and get good hard cash, the interest on which alone would be more than what they are collecting to-day. I am happy the Minister of Lagos Affairs is here, more so as there is an important matter which I have been discussing with him. For instance, the Government is letting out a plot of land for £4 5s a quarter. If one looks at the Estimates the rents from Government properties in a year do not amount to £150,000 and if Government sells all these leasehold properties to Nigerians who will pay the Government 10, 15, or 20 years' rents as the case may be, the Government would have millions of pounds to play with, and the interest on those millions of pounds would far exceed what the Government can collect now as rents from those properties.

**An hon. Member :** But civil servants must be housed.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** There are civil servants who should be housed, and I quite agree with this. When I was a civil servant I was at a time transferred to Kaduna and Zaria, and in each case I was staying in a room. I was given quarters. There are junior civil servants who should be given quarters, but most of the senior civil servants to-day who step into the shoes of the expatriate officers and earn far more than even Ministers are the people in these quarters. Many of them can afford to send four or five children to England and pay their school fees without difficulty. That I cannot do. These senior civil servants are allowed to stay in Government quarters and pay £150 per annum (£12 10s per month), and I have been paying £25 a month for my own poor bungalow at Yaba for the past nine years, which is £300 per annum.

Why should Government allow somebody who is earning £3,100, or £3,300 per annum to live in Government quarters and pay £12 10s per month? What sort of service are this class of civil servants rendering to this country that the politicians are not rendering?

I would appeal to the hon. Prime Minister to mobilise all the talents in this country, because the task ahead is great. This country is fortunate in having him as Prime Minister. The more I see the way things develop—

**Mr Speaker :** Will the hon. Member please wind up.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** The more I see the way things develop in the Western Region the greater respect I have for our Prime Minister.

**Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East) :** I feel that the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) is misleading this House. I think that civil servants pay one-eighth of their salary, and that means a lot to them.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** I stand to be corrected. But when I got the information last I understood some people were paying only £150 per annum as rents.

The last point I was making was that the more I see how things develop in the Western Region the greater respect I have for the Prime Minister, because if he were somebody else I would not be allowed to say one-tenth of what I said to-day. I would not because, in fact, I would, perhaps, be languishing behind the bars to-day for what I have said before. But we know he has a liberal democratic outlook, unlike the Member for Gwarzo East (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*).

**Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East) :** On a point of order, I agree that the Prime Minister is better than I am, but I am better than anybody else.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** I support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

**Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh :** I should like to—

**Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) :** On a point of order, if the Minister of Finance is going to wind up the debate I think he should give us time to contribute to the debate before he does so.

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

whether the enterprise of the Member for Degema merits any pioneer certificate. If it does, one must reconsider the position.

The Government will not continue to dole out pioneer certificates to businesses that have no value to Nigeria. Such businesses, will be making profit and that profit will be repatriated from the country *ab initia*.

So, I think that all reasonable people must agree with us that before duty relief can be granted to people and before pioneer certificates and tax holidays are given to companies, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry must scrutinise their applications. We must also close all loopholes so that people will not defraud this country.

In doing this we cannot give certificates overnight or pay money back to people overnight. They must be properly scrutinised and it is the duty of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to do this before these certificates are given out. I am sure that this is much more a credit to the Government than the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) would like to know.

The hon. Member obviously spoke quite candidly but completely out of order. I contained myself and I restrained myself from calling him to order to enable him to say all that he had to say. When he had finished I saw that there was nothing of substance whatsoever in all that he said.

First, I would be very chary indeed to try to flog a dead horse because as far as the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) and the Action Group are concerned, they are a dead horse. And when hon. Members find somebody making a speech, as somebody who has nothing to lose, then of course that person has to be left to himself and to his conscience.

All that he said was the usual sermon of "holier-than-thou" by the Action Group and I think in his unwarranted attack on the Government, the N.C.N.C. as a party in this Government must learn some lesson. I think that I speak for a great number of the supporters and leaders of the N.C.N.C. and some of those who think that our party can form any alliance with the Action Group anywhere. From what he has said, hon. Members will find that till

tomorrow the Action Group is against the N.C.N.C.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : On a point of order, I would not like the Minister of Finance to use the opportunity of my speech to air his own views about the relationship between political parties in this country. Throughout my speech the only reference I made to political parties was about political parties forming coalition. That was all I said. But if the Minister of Finance wants the whole world to know where he stands or what loyalty he has to his party, that is a different matter.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I would like all Members of the House and the public in general to bear with me and follow the trend of my argument. When the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) spoke, he reiterated the agreement that was made between the N.C.N.C. and the N.P.C. in forming this Government. He said it a few minutes ago. He even said that all we did was to share the ministerial posts and nothing more, and that all this was the result of our failure.

That is exactly where I am starting from. I have a very good memory, and that is why I say that this unwarranted attack on the N.C.N.C. as a coalition member of this Government is uncalled for and is a clear indication of the hypocritical nature of the Action Group which they can never hide.

Any attempt to form any alliance with the Action Group anywhere in Nigeria will only amount to the bringing back to life a dead horse and I say quite frankly, as I have said some time ago, that I will never be a party to it. Before it is formed I am out.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : On a point of order, I feel that the Minister of Finance is being absolutely irrelevant. I have quoted his own words—his admission of failure—and since he has never answered to that he should tell me whether the quotations I cited were true or not.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order. At this juncture, may I make a general appeal. It is becoming very difficult to draw a line between relevances and irrelevances in the course of this debate. May I appeal to the Minister of Finance to kindly come nearer to the Budget.

House of Representatives Debates

1397

[Appropriation (1964-65)

1 APRIL 1964

Bill : Second Reading]

1398

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South) : On a point of order, I find it very difficult to understand why when political parties make decisions members of the same party come here to unmake those decisions. (*Several hon. Members : Shame, shame, shame.*)

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order. It is unfortunate that the expressions have gone as far as they have gone, but I think it will be fairer if inter-party arguments would be returned to party platforms. As far as this Debate is concerned I will only allow speeches to continue strictly on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill and no more of party politics.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : I want to say quite emphatically on a point of order, Sir, that as one of the leaders of the N.C.N.C. in this Parliament, members both of our party and the other coalition party should be careful what they say. Political parties are free at the appropriate time to make their own decisions. That should not be brought to the Floor of this House, and I say this without bitterness because I do not want to be ruled out of order. It is important for Members of Parliament to be responsible. Bringing this country together is the duty of all of us and ordinary *jeun jeun* partymen should be careful what they say about other parties.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order. I think we have had the last reference to inter-party politics. Any further reference to party politics will be ruled out of order in the course of this debate.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : When the Debate on this Budget Speech started, the first Member to speak on it from the Opposition Bench was an Action Group member and I shall be dealing with his speech later on economic grounds, but before you took the Chair, Sir, the last two Members who spoke made certain statements which must be challenged. I want to say, with very great respect, that even when the Action Group was active I was never afraid of it, not to talk of now when the Action Group is completely toothless.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : On a point of order. The Minister of Finance does not seem to remember that the Deputy Speaker has ruled that there should be no more reference to political parties.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order. I quite appreciate the fact that inter-party references may have been made to which the Minister of Finance may be anxious to reply, but may I appeal to him for some restraint.

I think I have made some rulings in this matter and if we have got to preserve democracy we have got to give way at certain times ; and under our Standing Orders the ruling of the Chair can only be challenged by a substantive motion.

There is nothing preventing the Minister of Finance from disagreeing with those who have spoken before but I think he will have to carefully find some other lines on which to disagree.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : With very great respect, I might refresh the memory of hon. Members on certain charges that have been made against this Government by the hon. Member. He said that this Government did nothing except to set up commissions of inquiry, and that it also did nothing dynamic since the two parties formed the coalition government except to share ministerial posts. These are attacks on my party and the Government. And he said too that this Government fancied itself in the destruction of the Opposition. I know what I am talking about. These were the charges made against this Government of which my party is a partner. He went further to say that this Government is only interested in collecting 10 *per cent* commission on contracts awarded, and so on.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : On a point of order—

**The Deputy Speaker** : What order ?

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : I am only going to reply—

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order ! May I appeal to the front Bench on either side. We may be losing sight of the powers of the Chair as regards the Standing Orders. But I think that much as the Chair exercises a lot of restraint, it behoves Members too to exercise some restraint.

The Minister is perfectly free to carry on the argument on the basis of Opposition and Government, and I think that is the language in which the statement he complained of was



[THE DEPUTY SPEAKER]

made. And on that level, the debate can continue but certainly not up to the stage of being transformed into inter-party or intra-party dispute.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Mr Speaker, I accept your ruling. It may well be necessary for me to say that all well-meaning people in Nigeria will agree with me that all these charges that were made against this Government were the destructive trend of the party in Opposition when they were in power in a section of this country.

They have nothing to do with this Government at all. I say with all sense of responsibility that this was their stock-in-trade when they were in power there. As a matter of fact, the hon. Member, when he machinated and threw his political leader into jail, the money that was given to him for the defence of his party-men was used by him to build a house at Yaba.

5.43 p.m.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. Will the hon. Minister please concentrate on the fiscal policy of the Government.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** I would respectfully ask the Minister of Finance to withdraw the statement that he has just made. It is wrong for any Minister to impute misconduct on a Member in this Parliament. I have criticised the Government and I have given a catalogue of allegations of the failures of the fiscal policy of the Government; nothing more. I know more of the Minister's life than he ever thinks, and if he is not careful I will let the whole world know how crooked and wicked he is.

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! If the hon. Minister of Finance continues to talk away from the financial policy, I will put the Question.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Mr Speaker, it is difficult to appreciate the way most hon. Members reason and argue on economic matters. Nearly every Member wants Government to do a number of things such as developing our roads, developing telecommunications, building factories, give employment to people, develop our ports and railways, completely industrialise the country, provide housing at little or no cost, increase wages, build an

effective army and police force, give scholarship *et cetera*. But, according to most Members, in doing all these things they say, "do not raise loans from outside; do not increase taxes; do not touch our reserves; do not create paper money and there must be no inflation".

This contradictory economic theory is only good for the jungle. It has never been practised by any known country or society. People must know that the simple economic theory is that, one must make sacrifices in order to reap a rich harvest in the future. One must save something now in order to invest against a future harvest.

In all countries of the world, where people pursue development programmes they are known to have made immense personal sacrifices either willingly or compulsorily. We are all familiar with the history of the Industrial Revolution in England and with the evils of child labour and the deprivation of personal liberty which are the corollaries to the rapid industrialisation of most countries in Europe and Asia. There are extreme cases of sacrifice people make in order to achieve industrialisation and economic progress.

This Government is not asking this of anybody. In most countries of Europe, Asia and the Middle East that are striving towards development they have two kinds of products: the inferior type which they produce for local consumption and the superior and costly ones which they produce for exports only. This is again another example of sacrifice.

Whether in a socialist, capitalist, democratic or communalistic society the emphasis is always on sacrifice. In fact a man who helps himself is a prudent man. Taxation is therefore a prudent means of self help. There is no other way to success. Let those who talk of communism or socialism tell us how their aims are achieved—by sleeping all the day or by hard work and sacrifices ?

Here in Nigeria our people want to live in luxury and at the same time they want the country to be developed at the same pace as other countries, if not even faster. People must realise that it is how they invest that they have to reap. And here I quote an extract from the Epistle of Saint Paul to the Corinthians—

*And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain....*

House of Representatives Debates

1401

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

1 APRIL 1964

Bill : Second Reading]

1402

**An hon. Member :** 'Reverend' Okotie-Eboh

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Yes. In short, people should not think that it is the very thing they invest they have to reap but in order to reap something good, you must invest richly ; you must make sacrifice.

It appears most Members never see anything good in the Government. The Government has been regarded as not commanding enough reputation and confidence internationally. They expect us to do the impossible. A plan which will need six years or more to materialise is expected to be accomplished in less than three years.

Mighty problems which took most advanced and better placed countries decades to solve we are expected to solve over-night. This Government has created many things within a relatively short time. Let our detractors stop and think. At least let them praise the Prime Minister for keeping peace in the country and for giving us stability and happiness. Let us keep our place in Africa and the world by peaceful co-existence, tolerance and fairplay. I do not say that we should be complacent, but all the same I think we should look at the Federal Government from the point of view of what was left undone which we have now done after three years of independence.

Let us take a look at the infra-structure of our economy, for example, the public utilities and public corporations such as the Nigerian Ports Authority, the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria, the Coal Corporation, the Railway Corporation, *et cetera*. Let us ask ourselves how developed were these utilities before independence and compare their positions to-day and consider how much more money has been invested in each of them. Take a look at Lagos and see the achievements of L.F.D.B., the low cost housing scheme and the overall development of Lagos which to-day impresses every foreigner and is the pride of every Nigerian.

Then take a look at the Regions and see the massive agricultural and industrial development achieved in the past three years. There are to-day five full-fledged universities as against only one three to four years ago.

Then, of course, there are innumerable industries scattered all over the country in which the Federal Government has direct

participation ; some are independent quasi-government operations. I list a few of them as follows :—

1. The Nigerian Cement Company Limited
2. Dunlop Nigeria Industries Limited
3. Nigeria Sugar Company Limited
4. The Flour Mills of Nigeria Limited
5. Nigerian Fermentation Industries Limited
6. The Nigerian Paper Mills Limited
7. Nigerpools
8. Michelin (Nigeria) Limited
9. The Sugar Company Limited
10. Reliance Metal Products (Nigeria) Ltd.
11. Nigeria Hotels Limited
12. Nigerian National Line Limited
13. W.A.A.C. (Nigeria) Limited
14. External Telecommunications Limited
15. Nigerian Security Printing and Mintage Company Ltd.
16. Loans paid out to indigenous enterprises.
17. Loan paid to N.I.D.B.

All these involved millions and millions of pounds which we have put in for the development of our infra-structure and the establishment of industries all over the country, giving employment to people and transforming our natural resources into finished products for our people to make use of. And yet people do not praise this Government for these wonderful achievements.

Then have a look at the private Sector and see the overnight transformation of the whole economy. Apart from scanty overseas resources, we have been able to achieve all this from our own efforts.

Next, I mention the financial institutions We have established the Central Bank, the Stock Exchange and soon we are going to have our own mint and security print. All these we have achieved within a space of three years. We have also established a money

[CHIEF OKOTIE-BOH]

market in Nigeria in all its ramifications. We could not have done better at the space of time at our disposal. Even countries which gained independence before us, both in Africa and elsewhere, have not been known to do all these that we have done.

Several Members have spoken critically about the recent customs and excise levies as oppressive. Then, I ask, What sacrifice shall we pay in order to make the future generation live better? If everything is so good and we want to live in paradise now, then what are we trying to develop if that paradise is already at hand? I once more emphasise the need for sacrifice. We are trying to develop because we are not developed. People want to live in paradise now; but if we are already in paradise where do we want to go again? So people must realise that this is the time to pay the sacrifice for the paradise that our children will enjoy. If you do not make the sacrifice you do not expect to enjoy it in future.

The Member for Ekiti North East (*Mr Akomolafe*) has criticised the slow pace at which foreign aid is coming; so also the Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*). But they seem to forget that when we receive loans and grants from America and the United Kingdom, it is the tax-payers' money, saved the hard way, and not paper money. They also seem to forget that we should help ourselves before we expect others to help us. I mentioned in my speech that even though external finance has not been coming in as expected, yet the prospect for the future is bright. I also said in my speech that foreign investors need time to be convinced of our seriousness of purpose and of the security of their investment. These are, of course, what every normal prudent businessman would do and I fail to see how we always fail to face reality. We live in a world of relativity and therefore the only way to assess ourselves is by comparison with others, and I do not see now Nigeria could be said to be doing badly.

The same Member for Ekiti North East has said that we should have a 15-year or a 20-year development programme instead of the 6-year development programme. But I do not think the reasoning is tenable in our circumstances. A plan should be drawn up within the range of

what may be regarded as a foreseeable future. We can, with some degree of certainty, guess or estimate what is likely to happen in the next four or five years, but surely no one can venture to predict what would happen in the next twenty years. Besides, I had emphasised in my Mobilisation Budget Speech of 1962 that the Six-Year Development Programme should be regarded as a first stage of our development programme, the successful achievement of which would act as a booster rocket to put our economy into the right orbit of our march towards full industrialisation.

In conclusion, I would ask Members to be more practical and be more realistic. What Nigeria requires to-day are people who get things done and not people who talk and write good English and criticise just for the mere sake of criticising. If we believe in future greatness, then we must work for it and put up something for tomorrow. We do not achieve greatness just for the mere asking; rather, we can only achieve it by toil, sweat and sacrifice; much talking will not achieve it for us. Let those armchair critics go to the factories and put in a good day's work and I am sure after that they will talk less. Let us be more practical: whether a doctor, a lawyer, a clerk, a labourer or whatever our calling. Let us see that each and everyone contributes his honest quota towards the betterment of Nigeria and dissipate less energy in talking and idle gossip.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.*

*Committee—Tomorrow.*

#### NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Labour** (Chief J. M. Johnson): I rise to move—

That a Bill entitled "A Bill for an Act to amend the National Provident Fund Act, 1961" be read a Second time.

In April 1961, I had the pleasure of introducing before this honourable House a Bill for an Act to establish the National Provident Fund. I stated then that, when established, the scheme would be a major step in the social advancement of the country and a first step on the road to social security for the workers.

The Act which was passed by this House at that time was quickly put into effect and the scheme was launched on 1st October of that year, being the first anniversary of our country's independence. Since its inception, the Fund has made very satisfactory progress, although it is still grappling with normal initial difficulties. Up to and including the week ending 5th March, 1964, 3,699 employers and 403,612 workers had been registered under the scheme.

In the same period, a total sum of £5,135,127-0s-9d had been paid into the Fund as contributions. This money is being judiciously invested under the directions of the National Provident Fund Investment Committee, and I am sure hon. Members will all be pleased to know that all the investments have been within Nigeria.

The National Provident Fund started to pay out benefits to members who qualified for them not long after its inception. The first case of benefit was approved and paid in June 1962. Since that time the number of members who have qualified and received benefits has increased steadily; by 5th March, 1964, a total of 442 cases of benefits had been approved and paid.

Within the short period in which the Fund has been running, experience has shown that the National Provident Fund Act, 1961, needs to be amended in some respects. It is to give effect to such amendments that the Bill now before the House is being introduced. The amendments which are proposed will not affect in any way the main principle of the scheme, which is to provide a fund, by means of contributions, out of which will be paid out benefits to workers who retire from work when they are old. The amendments are rather for the purpose of correcting a few minor deficiencies which have been discovered in the Act.

The main amendment which this Bill proposes is in connection with the membership of the Investment Committee of the Fund. As the Act now stands, those charged with responsibility for investing the surplus moneys of the Fund are mainly officials of the Federal Government. This is considered inadequate since the scheme is of federal application. It is, therefore, by this Bill, proposed to enlarge the Investment Committee so as to include representatives from the Regional Governments.

This Bill also provides that the membership of the National Provident Fund Advisory Council should be such that if and when a new region is created, that region would automatically be represented on the Council.

The other amendments proposed are meant to ensure a more effective procedure for payment of contributions to the Fund by employers.

The amendments envisaged by this Bill are the result of careful consideration, having regard to the experience so far gained in the running of the scheme. It is my conviction that they will result in a more efficient operation of the National Provident Fund.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju): I beg to second.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North): This Bill I suppose is more or less an improvement on the Act which we passed here in 1961. When the Act was initially introduced, this side of the House whole-heartedly supported it, but following the experiment and the working of the scheme, we have noticed certain anomalies.

First of all is the unco-operative attitude of the employers. Sometime last year I received a telegram from daily-paid workers in the Mid-West complaining that the employers would not co-operate in introducing the National Provident Fund in their departments. This is a very serious point. If this Parliament will come and pass an Act which is expected to have federal application and yet certain employers are not willing to abide by the law of the land, I think the Minister of Labour owes this House an explanation why some employers should refuse to co-operate and they are allowed to get away with it. This is very serious. They are making a mockery of Acts of this Parliament.

When this particular incident happened, I mentioned it to the officials of the Ministry. This is not the first time that employers have been violating the laws of the land. I leave it to the Minister of Labour to explain because we expect all employers to co-operate by making this law to work.

There is another point on which I really have to disagree with the Minister in his proposal. This Advisory Council is for a

[MR MBAH]

tripartite type of contribution—where there is the Government, the private employer and then the worker. But in the Advisory Council which the Minister of Labour is proposing, he is merely concerned with the Government. He says in clause 4 of the Bill :

“(a) one fit officer of the Federal Ministry of Finance,

(b) one fit officer of the Central Bank of Nigeria nominated by the Governor of that Bank, and

(c) the Director”.

In the proposal he is making now for the Regions there is nothing to show that the private employer or the worker who contributes to this fund has any direct representation. This is a very serious omission. I made this point last time and I was hoping that in any future amendment the Minister would be able to accommodate the private employers and the workers, either directly or through their trade unions. I think it is the policy of this Government to take the labour unions and the workers into serious consideration, particularly in a case like this where it is fifty-fifty.

I made a suggestion last year that the employers should contribute twice into the Fund, but that suggestion was not heeded. The result to-day is that it is fifty-fifty, and even though it is fifty-fifty, the Government is dominating the whole Advisory Council. The people who are contributing have no representation whatsoever.

That takes me to the question of loans. Millions of pounds have been raised from this Provident Fund contribution. Now, who decides the rate of interest where these loans are to be taken? How do we protect the interest of those who contribute to this scheme when we have only the Government represented, whereas the actual people who contribute to the Fund have no representation? I would appeal to the Minister very seriously to accommodate private employers and the workers through their trade unions to be represented on this Advisory Council.

Then there is another aspect of this Act. I invited the attention of the Minister in 1961 to raise a ceiling of £40 per month to £60 per

month. This is necessary because there are instances, particularly in the private sector, where employees earning over £40 per month are non-pensionable staff and possibly there is no scheme to which they can belong. We have cut off a lot of people by ceiling this thing at £40.

I know very many companies (and I can mention them) which have no such schemes and we thought that this scheme would eventually benefit, apart from those known as the senior service, the intermediary people—the supervisors and the foremen—who earn up to £50 or more. It seems to me that this appeal has not been heeded by the Minister. I still want to appeal now to the Minister to think about this group of workers who have no scheme whatsoever.

There is another problem which the Minister ought to solve. There is a difficulty in getting benefits accruing from this Provident Fund. When people are terminated in a particular department, it takes them months and years to get what they have paid into the Fund and, in fact, in some cases, they have to abandon it. This is unfair. I do not think that the idea of introducing the National Provident Fund is for the Government to rob the workers indirectly. If the Government can insist on the worker paying his contributions at the end of the month, I do not see why it should take the Government months and even years to pay him back when he ceases to work.

The machinery is too slow and I wish the Minister will improve it so that if somebody is terminated in the Railways, in the Shell or anywhere, he can get his money and go away, that is if he is not going to ask for a transfer and transferring his contribution to a new employer or if he wants to be a private man. Otherwise, many workers will be disgusted with the delays in getting their contributions paid to them.

One last point that I want to make is on the first clause in which the Minister said :

“If before or after the passing of this Act further Regions are created and the like representation on the Advisory Council as constituted under section eight of the National Provident Fund Act 1961 (in this Act referred to as “the principal Act”) as is accorded to

*other Regions is desired by any such Region, the Minister may by order in the Gazette amend the Constitution of that Council to the extent necessary to give effect to such desire and the First Schedule to the principal Act shall have effect accordingly, so however that the total membership of the Advisory Council shall not at any one time exceed twenty-five ; and if the membership is increased under this subsection the Minister may, by the same or any other, fix a quorum for any meeting."*

When one considers this along with the provisions for Lagos, it is discriminatory. Where there is a stipulated period for members of the National Provident Fund from the Regions and the time for their tenure to terminate, in the case of Lagos it is indefinite—it is stated that it shall be at the pleasure of the Minister. Why do we not have a general principle controlling both cases? Why should there be a different law for membership in Lagos and a different law for that in the Regions? Why do we not have a common principle like what we have in the various corporations and boards? If we are going to serve for three years, let it be for three years, and if two, let it be for two years. Why have a time limit for those in the Regions and unlimited time for those in Lagos, leaving their own time to be determined by the Minister? I cannot understand this and I think the Minister has to satisfy us on this.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie (Enugu):** I want to make only a few points. The first is to congratulate the Minister of Labour. This Bill is very progressive. At times, we have the opportunity to praise certain things which are well done by Ministers. I think that this is one of the non-contentious Bills. It shows that the Minister is well aware of his duties and is alive to his responsibilities to the workers.

This is a provision against old age. When people get old they need to be helped, and this is one of the aims of the Bill. I think that this is an opportunity for us to say that the Government is doing well.

One other point which I want to make is that if the workers must be able to contribute to the Provident Fund, the Morgan Commission must recommend increased wages. That is important because a poor man cannot

contribute. If we want someone to contribute, that person must have money to contribute. If the Morgan Commission recommends something satisfactory, progressive and nationalistic, which will make it possible for the workers to be able to live above subsistence level, they will be able to contribute, and when they get old, they will be able to get something to live upon.

I want the Minister to use his persuasive power to see that employers co-operate, because in some areas laws are defied and this very idea of helping the workers prove abortive.

Another point is that we want the workers to be adequately represented. These are the two points that I want to make.

I congratulated the Minister for this progressive measure.

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa):** There is just one point that I want to make. Within the short space of time, more than £5 million have been raised from less than 10,000 employees. But I wonder whether it is possible for the Prime Minister to make it compulsory for all Members of this House to become members of the National Provident Fund. The Membership of this House is permanent or pensionable, and if we belong to the Provident Fund a lot of money will still come back to the purse of the Federal Government.

If we sit down making laws for the country, the law should apply to us. We can start from the Floor of this House to make it compulsory for hon. Members to become members of the Fund. When hon. Members are no longer in the House, then the benefit will go back to them.

There are some hon. Members who appear to be life Members of Parliament because some of them have been Members before I was born. Such people will have a lot of benefits when they leave the Parliament.

I agree with the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) that the employees and the employers should be well represented on the advisory council.

Looking at the Bill before us, it appears that the Council is going to be dominated by politicians. The Minister has to decide the number of people who will form the quorum.

[MR GBOLAGUNTE]

After all, he is to decide which of the members of the committee should be removed as a result of incompetence. If the Minister has the power to remove representative from the Regions on flimsy allegation of incompetence, then the members will have to dance to the tune of the Minister who brought them into the council. If that happens, then there is no protection for the employees and the employers, and I agree that the workers and the employers should be adequately represented on the advisory council.

*Whereupon the Member for Gwarzo East (Alhaji Bello Dandago) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.*

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

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South): I find it very difficult to understand why it is that when some Members have important contributions to make to a debate, they are unnecessarily interrupted or excluded.

**Mr Speaker**: I am sorry that the House has already consented to putting the Question.

*Main Question put and agreed to.*

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

NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND BILL :  
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATION ON ADVISORY COUNCIL FROM NEW REGIONS)

**Mr Ememe**: I only wish to bring out a few points on this National Provident Fund Bill. The Minister appears to have given the nation something to think about; but this measure, as I see it, and in the real sense of it, is not adequate enough. It is only a half measure against the real problem that face us to-day in this country.

The reason why the Fund is established is to provide for people when they are old and when they cannot do any work. The Provident Fund cannot really solve this problem. If we take the case of a man who has lost his job and perhaps another labourer who was on a salary of three shillings a day, and if we consider it very carefully, we shall see that the man is happy—

**The Speaker**: This is out of order. Clause 1 deals with additional members of the advisory council.

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West): Clause 1 deals with representation from the Regions. I am saying that it is only in Calabar province that we can still boast of people living up to the age of 150 years and still enjoy life.

As the creation of the fifth Region to be known as the South Eastern State will soon be effected, I am making an advance application to the Minister of Labour to give this new Region equal representation with other Regions on the Advisory Council.

**Mr D. S. Udo-Inyang** (Opobo North): In Clause 1, it is provided that the Minister should fix a quorum for any meeting. I think this procedure is wrong; it should be fixed by law because this is a matter which involves millions of pounds and the fortunes of so many workers. If the Minister is allowed to fix a quorum arbitrarily and not by law, if there is any unpopular bill or a motion to get through, the Minister can invite only those he likes or only those he thinks will support him.

I think this will not make for the efficiency and proper management of this scheme. A quorum should be fixed by law and not by the Minister arbitrarily.

Clause 1—(ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATION ON ADVISORY COUNCIL FROM NEW REGIONS)—  
*ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 2-3, ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 4—(NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE).

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North): I am deadly against subsection 2 of Clause 4. It says:

*Regional members appointed under the foregoing subsection shall hold office for a period of two years, or if appointed by office then during the tenure of such office, but with that reservation they shall be eligible for reappointment; and Federal territory members so appointed shall hold office during the continuance of their employment in the Federal territory, but may be removed from office by the Minister without the necessity for assigning any reason.*

*House of Representatives Debates*

1413

[*National Provident Fund*

1 APRIL 1964

*Bill : Third Reading*]

1414

I do not like this disparity made between Regional members and Federal members on the Investment Committee.

Why is the same principle not laid down for both Regional and Federal members of the Committee? If they are going to serve for two or even three years, then it should apply to all members alike, regional or otherwise. Why should regional members serve for two years and Federal members for an indefinite period of time. I would like the Minister of Labour to clarify this point.

**Chief J. M. Johnson :** I would have said that this section was straightforward, but since some explanation appeared to be necessary, I would offer some.

Membership of the Committee is composed mainly of officers of the Ministry of Finance and officers of the Fund, that is, of the Ministry of Labour. These are established officials who are allowed to continue in office.

In the case of the Regions, the officials come here only in name. The office, in fact, has nothing to do with private interest or private men. The officials allowed to continue indefinitely in office are Government officials in Lagos. That is why the condition in the tenure of office for Lagos members is different from that of the regional members.

*Clause 4.—(NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 5, ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Schedule agreed to.*

*Bill reported without Amendment.*

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

**Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) :** I only feel that this is an appropriate moment to thank the Minister of Labour and congratulate him on the very good work he had done in connection with the introduction of this Bill. I feel very, very guilty when I remember that on very many previous occasions, I have criticised the Minister on the issue of soccer. But I strongly wish to congratulate him now.

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) :** This is a welcome Bill. I just want Members to realise that some years ago, the issue of Provident Fund was quite a different thing from what it is now. Those of us who have been employed by firms in this country, and who have contributed to the Provident Fund will note that quite a lot of money had been taken away from this country.

When the Provident Fund was started by the U.A.C. some years ago, I was one of the first people to contribute to it. Whenever anyone left the U.A.C. and wanted his money, he would have to wait for a period of about six months. His application to have his money would go from the Lagos head office to Ghana, where the headquarters was situated. From Ghana the paper and money would go to any other part of the world. There were a lot of complications if one wanted to get one's money.

Now that this Provident Fund is going to be in Nigeria, the money is going to be spent in Nigeria for the Nigerians. The interest will be in Nigeria and everything, in fact, will be here with us. I was surprised when the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) said that he was dead against this Bill, and that the Bill was not a good one.

I think it is necessary that we should congratulate and praise our Ministers when they have done a nice piece of work in their Ministries. We here in Parliament are expected to congratulate them.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) :** When this Bill was first introduced, I was the first Member to support it and to thank the Minister and the Government. I was against a particular Clause, but I am now satisfied with the explanation offered by the Minister of Labour.

**Mr Odulana :** I am also one of those Members who will thank, not only the Minister, but the pillars behind the Minister—the officials of his Ministry, the Permanent Secretary and the Senior Assistant Secretary. These officials are here to see this Bill through, and we should not begin to insinuate and talk nonsense to the Minister. They will not feel happy about this. I welcome this Bill; thank the Minister.



**Mr J. U. Udenyi** (Enyong North): This Bill is actually non-controversial. But I wish to know what arrangements the Minister of Labour is making for the unemployed men in this country. This Bill has been ably presented, but what provisions are made for the unemployed masses of this country?

In Lagos there are about 5,000 boys and girls looking for jobs. In the East, we have about 2,000 and in the West another 3,000. What arrangements has the Minister made for them?

I seize this opportunity to tell the Prime Minister of this nation that the industrialisation of this country is of extreme urgency in order to ensure social equilibrium in this country.

It is very clear that one man's happiness is no happiness. Has republicanism any meaning to a hungry man? Has it any meaning to a man who goes about looking for job? Has it any meaning to a man who has no hope of any livelihood?

Therefore, we want immediate industrialisation of this country.

**Chief Johnson**: Talking about unemployment, I shall do my best to see that my hon. Friend does not add to the heavy list of the unemployed after the next election.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central): In contributing to this debate, I would say that the National Provident Fund is the direct channel through which this Government's influence would be felt in the local Government and administration. It is, therefore, proper to appeal to this Government to assist those operating local Provident Funds in the Regions, especially those in Native Administrations from where the resources for this Fund would come. The Federal Government could assist, in one way or the other, the clerks and accountants who operate the machinery of the Provident Fund in Local Administration.

In other places they find it a sort of burden though they regard it as a national duty which they enjoy performing, and I think that a sort of assistance or encouragement should be given to Native Administrations which perform the functions of receiving such money from various people. They give some scholarships

to various accountants from Native Authorities and Local Councils which perform such functions.

I beg to support.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South): The National Provident Fund is very commendable and it is a measure which has been expected of the Government for a long time. However, it falls short of the solution which is expected for the country. For example, when I travelled to England in the early 1950s, I discovered that some people who were unemployed in England actually received compensation for being unemployed for a time, and the Government went all out to find jobs for these people in order to avoid paying this compensation and for that reason, many people in England were a little bit secured socially. They were not roaming about as our people here do because they have no jobs.

This Provident Fund is only for people who have worked for some time and probably saved quite a sum of money through this project. What is provided here is on a fifty-fifty basis. Maybe the employer will pay ten shillings and the other ten shillings from the employee, but the Government does not seem to have considered that this is not sufficient. When a man is unemployed or when he is of old age, it is not sufficient to maintain him and his family and many people have very large families to maintain when they are of old age.

I think the Government should bring in a third factor; that is, add another third to this thing by paying twice. The employer should pay once and the Government should pay twice in order to increase this Fund. Otherwise, the Fund will be so inadequate that it will not really satisfy the workers. However, I would like to point out that another type of social security programme is desired and I wish the Government to go into this matter very seriously. That is unemployment compensation programme and the widows compensation programme. This should really be incorporated into the programme of the Government in the future.

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—(THE MINISTER OF ESTABLISHMENTS).*

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North) : I wish to raise a matter which should be of serious concern to all true lovers of this country. I want to draw the attention of this House to the frequent threats to the constitutional rights of the Ibos, particularly in Northern Nigeria.

Since the publication of the preliminary census figures which we of the N.C.N.C. have justifiably rejected, there have been reactions from many other quarters too. The atmosphere is terribly charged and the unity of Nigeria is to-day in a state of mortal peril.

I would like to know from the Prime Minister whether the Federal Government has taken note of the promise made by the Northern Minister of Land on behalf of his Government to dispossess the Ibos of their property, as well as the earlier threat to remove them from the service of that Region.

It seems clear that the Census controversy is now leading to the violation of certain Sections of our Constitution, particularly Sections 27 and 28. There are threats to freedom of movement and residence, incidents of incitement, creating ill-feelings against the Ibos and deprivation of property legally acquired by them. I want to know what action the Federal Government intends to take to stop such threats and dangers to the Constitutional rights of Nigerian citizens.

In raising this matter, I would like, however, to make it abundantly clear that the Ibos are not looking for some—one on whose shoulders to cry. The reckless attack on the Ibos by the N.P.C. and their allies has continued with unabated fury.

**Alhaji L. Daura** (Maska) : What the Member for Owerri North is talking about, Mr Speaker, is already pending in court. I have read in the newspapers that this matter has been taken to court by the Ibo Union.

**Mr Speaker** : I cannot actually say whether it is in court or not. The hon. Gentleman is basing his argument on what he read in the newspapers which we cannot rely upon.

**Mr Mbah** : The National President of my party and the people's Premier of Eastern Nigeria, Dr M. I. Okpara, has also been subjected to all sorts of intemperate attack and insult by the same clique. The insult is assuming more and more dangerous proportions but the Ibos had to bear the provocation with dignified restraint. We must all admit that there is a limit to human endurance—

**Mr S. A. Babatunde** (Ilorin Central) : This issue is explosive and it is not good for the hon. Gentleman to carry on discussing a matter that will bring chaos. It is no concern of this Parliament what they do in the North. Let them go home.

**Mr Mbah** : I think it would be appropriate at this stage to warn in all solemnity all those who are hatching aggression against the Ibos to weigh the consequences of this dangerous course on an objective scale and be prepared to bear the brunt of the burden.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : This is my point of order, Sir. This is a Motion on Adjournment which should be brief because a Motion on Adjournment is not debateable. Now the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) has taken this opportunity to make statements on the Floor of this House which are debateable. I wish that an assurance should be given to us that after his Motion we shall be allowed to debate it.

**Mr Mbah** : I cannot imagine how any section of Nigeria can plot to destroy the Ibos and still hope to live in peace in this country. The age of primitive dictatorship has gone and I wish those who deride the Ibos would see themselves as others see them.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central) : I think, Mr Speaker, you intended to allow the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) to make a brief statement, but this is rather getting too far and I think the ruling of the Chair that we should not tamper with the unity of Nigeria is now being tolerated by Mr Speaker.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi) : May I, Mr Speaker, in view of the gravity of the issue appeal to Members through you for restraint. We are all prepared to listen to what the Member for Owerri North has to say to us. After all, he is entitled to it.

**Mr Speaker :** I wish Members would please co-operate in this respect and realise that time is flying, and that the Prime Minister requires some time to reply.

**Mr Mbah :** I think we still need each other, no matter to which tribe we belong. I therefore want to say that the Prime Minister and his Government have a duty to retain the confidence of the people of Nigeria in the ability of the Federal Government to govern and lead this great country of ours in peace and unity.

**The Prime Minister :** When the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) asked for my permission to raise this matter, I think he promised me to raise it in a way that it would not add to the difficulties with which we are now confronted.

I made a statement over the radio that, as far as I was aware, there was not a single case in the Northern Region when any *Ibo* was deprived of his property, not a single case, and not a single *Ibo* man from the Northern Region was asked to quit the Northern Region by the order of any Native Authority or the Regional Government.

All these stories and rumours which go to the Eastern Region, which come to Lagos, which go to the other Regions are manufactured by some interested persons. These stories will not help those of us who are trying to build this country on a sound foundation.

It is a pity that in this country, whenever we have any sign of trouble, some people want to increase the tension and make it more difficult for better understanding to exist between the different groups. I think it is the duty of this honourable House, it is the duty of the press, it is the duty of everybody in the country to see that the work of construction that we are doing goes on as smoothly as possible.

Of course, there has been some tension, but I am aware of the feeling of the country as far as these matters are concerned.

What happened was that I heard there were statements made in the Northern House of Assembly and, at the same time, statements were made in other parts of the Federation. Things got a bit out of hand, I think people

got very excited; there is no one side to be blamed entirely. People got very excited, all sorts of things were said. I think the *Hausas* have got a proverb that words are like arrows and once you shoot them forth you cannot bring them back. Words do great damage and in the last three weeks we have really been passing through quite a difficult period; the unity of this country was in danger.

But I must say this. I have observed that the ordinary people who are not politicians, who are not newspaper men seem to get on very well, no matter from where they are; but we politicians, unfortunately, when we are driven to the wall, instead of thinking of the greatness of the country, instead of thinking for the future, it appears that we run back to our tribes and think in tribal terms to win votes, which I think is a great pity. I think we have reached a stage in this country when we should talk less of tribe but more of being Nigerians. (*Applause*).

I said on Tuesday that in Parliament we talk about all these things; sometimes we get heated about them quite unnecessarily, but I have observed even in Parliament that in five minutes we get very heated about tribal feelings, in another five minutes you find those who were really heated smiling at each other. This is not the case outside.

Let us not forget that the people outside have not got the advantage which we have. If we talk about tribal feelings here and end it here it is all right because I hope that eventually Nigeria will develop into those kinds of countries where tribes in the past were warring against themselves but where now instead of cutting each others heads, they are cracking tribal jokes. I hope we will reach this stage in Nigeria and there will be no question of *Hausa, Ibo, Yoruba, Efik* or any other tribe. We will belong to our tribal groups, but we will feel that Nigeria means more than anything else to us, more than our tribal groups and more than our individual selves.

I will again appeal to hon. Members that we in this House should set an example. We have been sitting in this Parliament discussing things together. We are friends, we eat together, we drink together. So, we are in this House to be the model of Nigerian unity. (*Hear, hear*).

*House of Representatives Debates*

1421

[Adjournment]

1 APRIL 1964

[Adjournment]

1422

I take it that the greatest advantage which we have is that in this House, if an hon. Member from the North goes to the East, he will have many friends and he will easily get accommodation. The same is the case with an Easterner in the North, the same as a Westerner in the Mid-West and the Mid-Westerner in the West. That is what it should be, and I hope all of us will really make it a duty upon ourselves to try the best we can to make this Parliament a model of Nigerian

unity and for each Member of Parliament to regard himself as a symbol of Nigerian unity.

We should talk less of tribe here, we should talk less of tribe outside but we should talk more of being Nigerians. (*Applause*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That this House do now adjourn.

*Adjourned accordingly at two minutes to six o'clock.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 2nd April, 1964

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(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, 7th April :

(1) Renaming of monuments bearing colonial names, No. 35 in the *Order Book* ;

(2) African Common Market, No. 56 in the *Order Book* ;

(3) Overbridge along the Western Avenue, No. 47 in the *Order Book* ;

(4) Flood Commission, No. 115 in the *Order Book* ;

(5) Enlargement of Maiduguri Airport for international flights, No. 22 in the *Order Book* ;

(6) Geological map of Nigeria, No. 129 in the *Order Book*.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East) : On a point of order, I refer to Order 14 (7) which reads :

*If a Member is not present to ask his question, or if the question is not reached before 10.30 a.m., the answer shall be printed in the Official Report, unless the Member shall have signified his wish to postpone his question before it was called or before 10.30 a.m. as the case may be.*

I refer to the *Hansard* for the night sitting of Thursday, 26th March, which has just come out. Questions which were not reached were supposed to be printed at the end of the *Hansard* for the day. I have observed that on that day the owners of the following ques-

tions were not present to ask these questions : Nos. 196, 197, 199, 117, 118, 262, 339, 350, 351, 352, 353. But in the *Hansard* which came out this morning some of the questions have been answered as written answers. Those questions which have been omitted are : Nos. 350, 351, 352, 353. Also some of the questions that were not reached on that day were printed but the following questions were omitted : Nos. 356, 357, 110, 200, 201, 358, 205.

I think this type of thing has been going on for some time and it is high time it should be corrected. I am saying that these answers should be put in the *Hansard*.

**Mr Speaker** : This matter will be investigated and if the answers to those questions the hon. Member is referring to were ready for printing in the *Hansard* then I will ask the Clerk of the Parliaments to do so in the next issue.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : I am not challenging the ruling of Mr Speaker but I am referring to the portion of his statement which says : "If the answers were ready". I thought that when a question appears in the *Order Paper* the answer should be ready.

**Mr Speaker** : Even when oral questions are asked in Parliament sometimes their answers are not ready. In this case, therefore, provided the answers are ready they will be published in the next issue of the *Hansard*. However, this is not the time to discuss this.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CABINET OFFICE

**O.132. Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Prime Minister, what measures will be taken to ensure peace and order during electioneering campaigns and at elections in future.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Alhaji Sanni Gezawa) : Arrangements will be made to provide the fullest possible police coverage during the electioneering campaigns and at other future elections. But I must stress that it is primarily the responsibility of all politicians to maintain peace and order on such occasions by controlling and restraining their followers. If they can discharge this responsibility, there will be no problem.

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South): How soon will the Prime Minister consider it necessary to abrogate the use of thugs by political parties?

**O.187. Mr A. U. D. Mbah** asked the Prime Minister, if he is aware that the Federal Government has decided to grant to the Government of Northern Nigeria about three hundred thousand pounds per year for five years for the purpose of developing the N.A. Police in Northern Nigeria; and if he will state whether similar arrangements exist in respect of the other Regions.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa**: It is the ultimate aim of the Federal Government that the Nigeria Police Force should take over completely all Native Authority Police and Local Government Police Forces throughout the Federation. The Police Council has been charged with the responsibility of achieving this objective.

Since it is understood that this will take time, there was an understanding reached at the 1958 Constitutional Conference to the effect that there should be no further increases in N.A. and L.G.P. Forces but future increases should be confined to the Nigeria Police. The Federal Government has contributed to the Police Training College not only in Northern Nigeria but also in Western Nigeria with a view to improving the efficiency of their Native Authority and Local Government Police Forces but not for increasing their numbers.

The annual grant of £300,000 is therefore made by the Federal Government to the Northern Nigeria Government towards the cost of improving the efficiency of their Native Authority Police Forces which are necessary auxiliaries to the Nigeria Police.

In Eastern Nigeria, there are no Local Government and Native Authority Police Forces; in Mid-Western Nigeria, the Local Government Police there is already being absorbed by the Nigeria Police.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East): Would the Prime Minister, if he is here, not agree that according to his statements the most important thing for this country is to maintain our unity? Would the Nigeria Police

not be the right institution for all these appendages or the so-called Police Forces in the country—the Native Authority Police Force and the Local Government Police Force? All these Police Forces should be under the umbrella of the Nigeria Police Force which would be a unifying force. Let us not pay lip service to unity; let us put it into practice. Would the Prime Minister please answer that?

**The Prime Minister**: All the Native Authority Police Forces and the Local Government Police Forces are under what an hon. Member called “the umbrella of the Nigeria Police” because they are supervised by superior officers of the Nigeria Police. But as the hon. Member would appreciate the Local Government Police Forces and the Native Authority Police Forces are performing very good work in maintaining law and order especially in areas where we have not yet got the Nigeria Police.

I think he should rest assured that the Federal Government is doing everything possible to expand the size of the Nigeria Police so as to give a wider coverage to the whole country.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema): Does the Prime Minister envisage any time at all when the Local Government Police Forces will be completely absorbed into the Nigeria Police Force?

**The Prime Minister**: It is very difficult for me to say but it is progressively being done. We are increasing the size of the Nigeria Police.

I think I had better inform the House that in many countries there is one policeman to every 400 or 600 people, and in Nigeria we are not anywhere near that ratio at all. We need to have about three or four times the size of our present force in order to give a better coverage to the country.

So, by our expansion every year hon. Members should know that we do not train a policeman in a day; it takes time to train them. So, it will take us some time even if we have the money to train all the possible policemen that this country requires. But in course of time it will be so, and that is the aim especially in the spirit of the 1958 Constitutional Conference in London.

**O.209. Mr A. U. D. Mbah** asked the Prime Minister, if he will state the percentage of Federal Government Financial assistance contemplated for each of the five Universities in Nigeria.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana)** : The attention of the Member is invited to the reply to Question No. O.341 published in the Hansard of 26th March, 1964.

**O.277. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Prime Minister, if he will state the number of deaths resulting from road accidents in each of the regions and Lagos from March 1, 1963 and March 1, 1964 ; and what proposals he has for reducing or preventing these accidents.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa** : 1,359 deaths resulting from road accidents occurred in Nigeria from March 1, 1963 to March 1, 1964 as follows :—

Lagos	.. .. .	88
Eastern Nigeria	.. .. .	278
Western and Mid-Western Nigeria	.. .. .	363
Northern Nigeria	.. .. .	630
		1,359

With regard to the second part of the Question, the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply to Question No. O.262 published in the *Hansard* of 26th March, 1964.

**O.278. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Prime Minister, how far Nigeria's negotiation with the European Economic Community has gone ; and if he will make a statement.

**Mr Lana** : Exploratory talks were held in November 1963 between the Commission of the European Economic Community and a delegation from Nigeria. Since then Nigeria has requested for formal negotiations with the Community.

It is expected that these negotiations will start in the very near future. It would be premature to make a further statement now because there are many delicate issues involved and because there are many interests anxious to identify the terms on which a possible agreement will be concluded.

**O.279. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Prime Minister, what arrangements he is making to withdraw our police contingent from the Congo as from June this year, in accordance with the United Nations resolution.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa** : Sir, the current United Nations Resolution relates only to military forces in the Congo. Regarding the Nigeria Police contingent appropriate arrangements will be made in consultation with the Congolese Government.

**O.280. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Prime Minister, how soon will a police post be established at Omoku, in accordance with the Government's long standing promise.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa** : Subject to the approval of the provision made for it in the draft Estimates, a Police post will be established at Omoku during the 1964-65 financial year.

**O.423. Chief D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Prime Minister, why there is no other police station in Benin Division than the one in Benin City.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa** : There are actually two Police Stations serving the Benin Urban Divisions :—

(1) *Benin Central Police Station* :

This affords Police cover for the City of Benin and its environs and it is responsible for rural patrol throughout the Benin Administrative area.

(2) *WAIFOR Police Station* :

This affords Police cover for that part of Benin Administrative area known as the West African Institute for Oil Palm Research, an area covering seven square miles. It also reinforces the Benin commitment when required.

It is also being proposed to take over and retain the following Local Government Police Stations in Benin Division and this has been included in 1964-65 Estimates :

Ekiadolor Police Station  
Iguabazuwa Police Station  
Abudu Police Station  
Igarra Police Station  
Uzonigbe Police Station

**O.424. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Prime Minister, whether Nigeria plans to join the European Common Market.

**Mr Lana :** No, Sir.

**O.425. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Prime Minister, when the Queen's Statute in front of the Senate Buildings will be replaced with that of the first President of the Republic of Nigeria.

**Mr Lana :** When the time comes to instal a statue of our first Head of State, a suitable site will be considered. Her Majesty the Queen is still the Head of the Commonwealth and therefore deserves a place of honour in the capital city of this Republic.

**O.426. Mr N. D. Ukah** asked the Prime Minister, if he will increase the strength and expand the quarters of the Mbaise Police Station.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa :** The Survey of Police Establishment recognised that the existing Police Post at Mbaise with an establishment of 12 was inadequate and accordingly recommended a major Standard Rural Police Station. Provision has therefore been made in the 1964-65 draft Estimates to increase the present establishment of 12 to 23 all ranks.

The question of expansion of the quarters for Police personnel there will be considered within the Police housing programme.

**O.427. Mr N. D. Ukah** asked the Prime Minister, if he will give consideration to the provision of pipe-borne water for the Police at Mbaise.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa :** The provision of pipe-borne water for the Police at Mbaise is subject to the availability of funds for the overall Police development programme.

**O.429. Mr S. O. Fajinmi** asked the Prime Minister, if he will set up a Nigeria Police Station at Iwo in Oshun Division.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa :** No, Sir. It is however, proposed to increase by 18 all ranks, the strength of the Nigeria Police Station at Oshogbo which is responsible for the policing of Oshun Divisional Area. There is at present a Local Government Police Station at Iwo comprising 22 men.

**O.431. Mr C. O. Chiedozie** asked the Prime Minister, whether he has immediate programmes for providing adequate quarters for the police at Enugu by building more modern police barracks.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa :** Subject to release of necessary funds to be provided in the 1964-65 Capital Estimates, quarters will be built at Enugu to house 8 Inspectors and 115 police officers.

**O.432. Mr C. O. Chiedozie** asked the Prime Minister, whether some of the Police dogs are now being used in the Regions ; and how many are in each Region.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa :** None, Sir.

**O.433. Mr C. O. Chiedozie** asked the Prime Minister, how soon the increases in the salary of junior police officers which he promised them last year will be announced.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa :** The salary scales for junior police officers have already been improved to remove stagnation at the previous maxima of the old salary scales. An overall revision of the pay and allowances of the junior ranks of the Police personnel is also contemplated.

**O.434. Mr V. A. Nwalieji** asked the Prime Minister, why the salaries of Army men, Navy men and Policemen are not uniform ; and whether he will consider the possibility of making all our disciplined forces earn uniform salaries.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa :** Salaries of members of the disciplined forces are determined in relation to the duties and responsibilities attached to various duty posts as between one force and another and within each force. In determining these salaries the principle of uniformity is applied as much as is practicable.

**O.435. Mr Nwalieji** asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider increasing the strength of the Police at Nsukka in view of large size of the Division and the greatly increasing population of the Township.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa :** The Establishment of Nsukka Police Station was increased by 14 all ranks during financial year 1963-64 to a total of 44 all ranks. A further increase



of 38 all ranks has been recommended and this will be considered along with others during the current 1962-68 Development Programme.

**O.436. Mr Nwalieji** asked the Prime Minister, what attempts are being made to check the issuing of driving licences to incompetent vehicle drivers.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa :** In the Federal territory of Lagos, driving licences are issued by the Lagos City Council on the basis of the tests conducted by the Council's Testing Officers, whilst in the Regions, the licences are issued on the basis of the tests conducted by the Nigeria Police Vehicle Inspection Officers under the Regional Road Traffic Regulations. Although there is no standard form of driving tests throughout the Republic, every effort is made by the Nigeria Police to check the issue of licences to incompetent drivers by asking any driver whose performance appears unsatisfactory to produce his or her licence for inspection.

**O.437. Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** asked the Prime Minister, how many Parliamentary delegations were sent out from this Federation since we became a Republic; and what countries were visited by these delegations.

**Mr Lana :** One, Sir. The country visited is Mexico.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North) : Will the Prime Minister tell us when he hopes to accept the invitation of President Khrushchev to visit the Soviet Union? We understand he has an invitation.

**The Prime Minister :** This is of course a new question, but I have already accepted the invitation and I was ready to go to Moscow last August, but unfortunately, the Soviet Authorities thought that I would be delayed a little because they were very busy at that time. However, I still hope to go.

**Mr Mbah :** I will go with the Prime Minister.

**The Prime Minister :** If the hon. Gentleman wishes to come with me, that will be very good, but this is provided we survive at the end of this term.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : I do not really understand the Prime Minister when

he says, we shall go provided we survive. Is he expecting an atom bomb or something?

**The Prime Minister :** Politically, I mean.

**O.468. Mr S. O. Fajinmi** asked the Prime Minister, what progress has been made on the construction of the Niger Dam.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa :** The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply to Question No. O.184 published in the *Hansard* of 19th March, 1964.

#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**O.438. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of External Affairs, what effort is being made to co-ordinate the activities of the Federal and Regional Governments in London.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs** (M. O. Okilo) : The staff of the Federal and Regional Governments in London consult with one another on matters of common interest. In addition, the High Commissioner and the Agents-General do hold periodic consultative meetings.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East) : I would like the Minister of External Affairs, since he is here, to make a statement on whether the Western Nigerian Government is still having its Consulate or whatever it is, elsewhere from the Nigeria House which is in London. We believe that one of the ways of maintaining our unity is to have our Embassies abroad housed under one building.

**The Minister of External Affairs** (Dr Jaja Wachuku) : The Western Region Government has not got a Consulate anywhere. Perhaps the hon. Member is referring to the Agent-General's Office. It is still there. It is a property acquired and it is not so easy to get rid of it like that. So, it is still there. The rest of the hon. Gentleman's question is a statement.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : Is the Minister aware that competition among various Regions and the Federal Government in many countries of the world, is destroying the image of Nigeria abroad?

**Dr Jaja Wachuku :** I am not aware of that.

**O.439. Mr N. D. Ukah** asked the Minister of External Affairs, what are the criteria for the

House of Representatives Debates

1433

[Oral Answers]

2 APRIL 1964

[Oral Answers]

1434

appointment of Ambassadors, Consular representatives and delegates to the United Nations Organisation.

**Mr Okilo :** The appointment of all categories of Nigerian representatives and delegations is based solely on merit and on the strict consideration of the interests of Nigeria abroad.

**Dr Okeke :** On the Floor of this House, the Minister of External Affairs made a statement that he would open an Embassy in Israel very soon. What is delaying the opening of an Embassy in Israel ?

**Mr Speaker :** This question is not relevant.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) :** Could the Minister of External Affairs explain what he means by merit when in selecting people as delegates for the United Nations, only one set of people keep on going from year to year.

**O.440. Chief Oronsaye** asked the Minister of External Affairs, how many destitute Nigerians have been repatriated since 1st January, 1962 ; and from what countries have they been repatriated.

**Mr Okilo :** A total of 1,369 destitute Nigerians have been repatriated from the following countries since 1st January, 1962 :—

Saudi Arabia .. .. .	883
Sudan .. .. .	428
United Kingdom .. .. .	27
United States of America .. .. .	3
Pakistan .. .. .	1
Ethiopia .. .. .	1
Western Germany .. .. .	6
Algeria .. .. .	1
Tchad Republic .. .. .	1
Niger Republic .. .. .	1
France .. .. .	1
Austria .. .. .	1
Senegal .. .. .	1
Ghana .. .. .	8
Ivory Coast .. .. .	2
Gabon .. .. .	1
Liberia .. .. .	1
United Arab Republic .. .. .	2
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>1,369</b>

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) :** Who foots the bill for all these repatriations and before these people left the country originally, were they sponsored by anybody ?

**Dr Jaja Wachuku :** The question of footing the bill depends on the circumstance. If it is a clear case of destitution, obviously we cannot expect Nigeria to allow its name to be dragged in the mud just because a national cannot afford to stay abroad. The State bears the responsibility. But where it is a case due to difficulties which could be met by the person concerned refunding, such a person is brought home and then he refunds the cost.

**Professor Ezera :** Will the Minister state how much this operation has cost the country ?

**O.441. Chief Oronsaye** asked the Minister of External Affairs, when he will post a Nigerian Ambassador to France.

**Mr Okilo :** After normal diplomatic relation between Nigeria and France is restored.

**O.442. Mr Gbolagunte** asked the Minister of External Affairs, if, in the light of recent events, he will consider establishing diplomatic relations with the West Indies and Latin American countries since the nearest of our Embassies to these places is in distant New York City.

**Mr Okilo :** Certainly yes. The Minister is already considering it.

EDUCATION

**O.210. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Education, how many undergraduates are now in the five Universities in Nigeria ; and what provision he has made for their employment after they have graduated.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Mr D. C. Ugwu) :** There are 4,668 undergraduates in four of our Universities according to the following breakdown :—

University of Ibadan .. .. .	2,016
University of Nigeria .. .. .	1,828
Ahmadu Bello University .. .. .	558
University of Lagos .. .. .	266

It is presumed that there will be no employment difficulties for these students, on graduation, since the number of the undergraduates is reflected in the forecasts of the National Manpower Board on the progressive manpower needs of both sectors of the economy.

**O.211. Mr Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Education, how many children are now attending primary schools, secondary Modern schools and Secondary Grammar Schools in the Federal Territory of Nigeria.

**Mr Ugwu** : Current statistics show that the total number of children attending the three types of schools, in the Federal Territory, is 115,752 according to the following breakdown :—

Primary Schools	.. ..	98,511
Secondary Grammar Schools		6,533
Modern Schools	.. ..	708

**O.212. Mr Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Education, how much was collected as gate fees at the Ibadan University Zoo from October 1963 to January 1964.

**Mr Ugwu** : Nine hundred and fifty eight pounds, eleven shillings was collected as gate fees at the Ibadan University Zoo during the period October 1963 to January 1964.

**Mr Speaker** : It is now 10.30 a.m. and no further questions can be entertained in accordance with Standing Order.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : On a point of order, my Question No. 425 has not been answered, it was dodged. I asked about replacement, but the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister told me about sitting.

**Mr Speaker** : It is too late to ask that Question.

## 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.

May I explain, as I said when I made the Business Statement in this House, that we allotted days in the Committee of Supply, and in view of the number of Members in the House who would like to speak on these

Heads, it is necessary that more time should be given to this debate. Therefore, we are extending the time till midnight to enable some of us to speak and then to enable us still to keep to the allotted days as required by our Constitution.

I beg to move.

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

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : We on this side of the House do not object to sitting late. We have always advocated that more time should be given to us to air our views. But I would like to request that if there are Ministerial Statements still left out they should be delivered not during the day time but between 9 p.m. and 12 midnight. That will, of course, make the Ministers themselves to attend the night sittings.

It is the experience in this House that at most of the night sittings most of the Ministers do not attend. I am really imploring the Speaker to advise the Ministers not to make their Ministerial Statements during the day time but they should give them during the night sittings.

**Mr E. C. Akwiwu** (Orlu South East) : I am fully in agreement with the Minister of Finance for doing everything he can to give more time for Members to contribute to this important debate. I do not think the House will be as accommodating in the future as it has been this time.

I think that as the Membership of the House increases, the stipulated days for debates of the Presidential Speech, the Budget Speech and on the Committee of Supply should be extended accordingly.

We would not have had all these night sittings if the number of the allotted days, as contained in the old Standing Order that was used when the House was half its present size, had been adjusted to accommodate the number of the Members now in this House. I do feel that these night sittings in the long run will not be the solution.

I appreciate that the Standing Orders have recently been revised, but I think that now that we see that it is necessary to allow more hours in order to accommodate more Members, the

House of Representatives Debates

1437

[Appropriation (1964-65)

2 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1438

Standing Orders should again be looked into with a view to providing for more working days and not more overtime.

*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  
(FIRST ALLOTTED DAY) : CONSIDERED IN  
COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY  
HEAD 21.—STATE HOUSE

*Question proposed, That £63,160 for Head 21—State House—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East) : Under normal circumstances, the expenditure on a State House should not be controversial at all. I support exactly the expenditure under this Head, but I just want to say something about Item 1 of the Head.

We in this country acclaim our Head of State as one of the greatest sons of Africa, just in the same vein that we acclaim our Prime Minister as one of the greatest statesmen the world has known, and we say so with all sense of sincerity and responsibility. But when we find on occasions that certain organs begin to attack the person of our Head of State, then, some of us are worried.

The point I want to make is that there should be provision for protecting a Head of State who has no executive function and who is not in a position to answer criticisms. There should be a provision for defending him, and I have in mind, that either the Attorney-General or the Prime Minister or even somebody in the State House itself should be able to defend our Head of State.

For instance, the other day, our respected Head of State made an innocuous but wise reminder about our constitutional rights in this country. Then, the following day an editorial in the *Daily Express* came out. Some of us consider that editorial not only irrelevant but impertinent and very outrageous on the otherwise constitutional duty of a Head of State.

There is freedom of speech and there is freedom of everything, but when we allow these freedoms to eat into what we regard as our great institutions, then it becomes chaos.

What I am saying here is that, this is not the time that we have had this type of silly and sceptic criticisms on our Head of State, these criticisms are unprovoked and unwarranted. I feel that either the Prime Minister or the Attorney-General should provide some sort of bureau whereby we could always protect our Head of State and Government from wild and unprovoked attacks that will render them ridiculous in the eyes of the world.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : How will that be done ?

**Professor Ezera** : That can easily be done. It should be the duty of an arm of our Government to issue rebutters to such vicious attacks. I am depressed to find that a newspaper like the *Daily Express* has reverted back to an imperialist ownership and hence has not only lost all the sense of nationalism in it but has become a weapon of our old imperialist masters.

For a newspaper of that nature to come out to make such a vicious and subtle attack on our Head of State is bad, and in my humble opinion, this should have been challenged by the proper authority.

I feel that we should give dignity to the position we have created in our orderly constitution, that we want to have a Head of State. We do not want to have a Head of State who is caged in and who has no power to retaliate or reply to attacks ; yet we have no provision to remedy this type of anomalies.

I am therefore appealing to the Prime Minister to look into this.

I beg to support.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : I am not going to move a Motion for any reduction on this Head, Mr Chairman, but I have just a few observations to make.

I think that the Attorney-General of this Federation is failing in his duties by leaving the onus of rebutting attacks to the Head of State. I think that it is his duty under the Constitution to protect the Head of State in

[DR OKEKE]

this country whenever he is under attacks made unduly by any of our citizens.

I should think that when it comes to the question of the Constitution, the Minister of Information does not know much about it, and so, it devolves on the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General to reply to attacks on the Head of State of this Federation.

The Minister of Justice should be kind enough to bring to this House a Bill making it an offence punishable by imprisonment or fine or both for anybody who unduly attacks the Head of this Republic, because the Head of this Republic is an embodiment of everything that we aspire to be in this country.

We cannot allow the name of the Head of our State to be dragged into the mud and keep mute in our own corner. We should not expect this country to progress in unity and strength when the name of the very head of the country has been dragged into the mud here and there and nobody raises a voice except the Head of State himself. There should be a Bill in this House seeking to punish anybody who attacks the Head of our State unduly.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East): I join all well-meaning people in the country in paying tribute to the present incumbent of the office of the President of the Republic. I think that, on all accounts, he has lived up to expectation in his demeanour, in his utterances and particularly during the recent period of tension. If there is anything in the power of the Government to give him encouragement, I think he deserves it.

When one reads from day to day the amount of official receptions emanating from the State House, one wonders whether the financial provision under this Head would be enough if things were to be carried on at that rate.

Anybody who entertains even in his own private capacity knows what it means to entertain, let alone when it comes to entertaining a continuous chain of world V.I.Ps.

I must again pay my tribute to the leaders that have helped to sustain the prestige and reputation of that office. In particular, when recently the President himself had to undertake the responsibility to challenge certain allegations made against him, the Premier of the Northern Region showed a great sense of statesmanship in his immediate reaction.

It is that sort of reaction on the part of our leaders that will help their followers to give honour, credit and dignity to the offices of the State deserving them. I do hope that what the Premier of the North has done will continue to live as a shining example to others in like position.

I was surprised to find that under this Head we have got one Legal Secretary and one Press Secretary attached to the State House. One might as well ask what do they do? Members have now complained about lack of reaction when some unfortunate and embarrassing references were made by the citizens of this country to the office of the President of the Republic. What are these people doing? If the Legal Secretary knows that it is beyond his powers or if he does not know what to do in such a situation, he is free to have consultation with the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice and the Director of Public Prosecutions.

But so far he has taken no step whatsoever; there has been no reaction. I think that if the expenditure on this Head is not going to be deleted, then this man must cover his head in shame.

Members have been talking as if there were no provisions in the Criminal Code to arrest this situation. There are so many provisions in the Criminal Code for dealing with various types of malefactions. It only rests on those officials immediately charged with the responsibility to set the ball rolling.

After all the Attorney-General might not have heard what was said, he might not have had the opportunity to read the particular newspaper, but this is the job of the Legal Secretary. In a case like that, he should have drawn the attention of the Attorney-General and the Director of Public Prosecutions to it.

In the same way, I was surprised to see that we have got a Press Secretary attached to the State House. A number of statements have been made this year and in a number of cases, it has been left to other organs to reply. Naturally we expect the Minister of Information with the proverbial agility that he has always demonstrated to respond immediately when the Head of State is attacked.

If the Press Secretary, who I think may have been seconded from the Ministry of Information, does not know what to do then he should

*House of Representatives Debates*

1441

[*Appropriation* (1964-65)]

2 APRIL 1964

*Bill : Committee*]

1442

be replaced with a more knowledgeable and agile fellow.

There is a well known saying that justice must not only be done, but it must seem to have been done. We have a number of extra ministerial departments; these departments as things stand now are much more connected with Ministers who are politicians and in the end it becomes rather difficult to know really who directs the affairs of these departments.

It is therefore, my humble suggestion that these extra ministerial departments should be brought under the President of the Republic. He is a person whose office is credited with impartiality and so far we have had no cause to doubt that he has measured up magnificently to expectation.

I feel that either now or in the immediate future, when we have the opportunity to do so, the following departments should be brought under the office of the President of the Republic—Federal Judiciary, Public Service Commission, Electoral Commission, Federal Audit Department and the Census Office. These matters which become terribly explosive when people begin to play politics with them or when subjugated to certain political influences, should be brought under the President of the Republic.

In addition, I would like to suggest that we establish a new Commission, to be brought under the President of the Republic which will be known as the "Human Rights Commission." Only recently some statements were made with regard to the deprivation of human rights. If we are going to leave things to the classical British Legal System, it becomes terribly expensive for individuals to fight out rights in courts for the benefit of the general public.

So I feel that cases involving deprivation of human rights should be handled by a special organ set up by the State either under the chairmanship of some High Court Judge or the other, but responsible to the President of the Republic, as Head of State. They should fight things out with the Regional Governments concerned, under the ultimate direction of the President of the Republic, as the Head of State.

I beg to support the expenditure on this Head.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central) : I rise to support the provision under this Head and in doing so I would like to make very few remarks.

The position of the Head of State is really a symbol of unity in this country. It was only yesterday that the Prime Minister appealed to this House to set an example for the rest of the Federation. He appealed to this House to set an example of what the unity of this country should look like.

In reality, the Head of State is a symbol of unity and his unanimous acceptance by Members from all sides of this House in September last, to become the Head of State bears eloquent testimony to this fact. I have only brought this up at this stage to dispel once again any idea which certain people may have in their minds that the Head of State is put there in the State House for their own particular sake.

I think that every Member of this House was proud to register his name when the Constitution of this Federation was being amended in order that Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe should become the first President of this nation. I think it is unfair for any section of this House, or any section of this Federation for that matter, to think that the President is for themselves alone.

**Mr D. N. Chukwu** (Awgu North) : On a point of order, in order to give honour to whom honour is due, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe should be appointed the life President of this country because of the job he has done for this country.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** : I have raised this question because I feel that it is the duty of every Member of this House who registers his own vote freely, to defend the Head of State when somebody outside or inside this House criticises him. So I feel that to show from any side of this House that one section is there to defend the President, is very very wrong.

**Mr Akwiwu** : On a point of order, the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) has made repeated references to this matter, and I am sure that there is no side of this House that is claiming monopoly of the defence of the Head of State.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : On a point of order, what the hon. Member is saying is right. If no side of the House is claiming monopoly, then nobody should interrupt him when he is making his speech. We should all then keep quiet and listen.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** : I think that every Member of this House voted freely during the constitutional amendment, and for that reason, if I find anybody trying to protect the Head of State as his own special job, it irritates me. It is the duty of every Member of this House and not a section alone to seek to protect him. I should make bold to say this. It is also the duty of the Government when it finds that some where, something is going wrong to do all in its power to stop it.

It is equally the duty of the Press Secretary in the State House as the Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivu*) rightly stated, to intervene in connection with any criticisms levelled on the Head of State.

I remember that when our President, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe was making a statement when he was appointed in October, he clearly stated that he was grateful for the honour done to him. He did not mention any particular section of this House. He did not mention any particular section of this great Federation. He was grateful to all Members of this Parliament and to the Federation as a whole.

I could also remember quite well that on his appointment as our Head of State the President stated that all he wanted to do was to serve this nation, and this he has always done. In one of his telegrams sometime ago he again stated this fact.

This shows us quite clearly that our President is not power-drunk, and for that reason I think it is wrong for anybody to fight personally for the performance of executive functions by the President of the Federation. If we so desire, I think it is the duty of this Parliament to so amend the Constitution of the country as to give executive powers to the *post* of the President, not to the *person*. It is the *post* that should be considered and not the *person* because he himself stated (and this is on record) that all he wanted to do was to serve this nation. If we want any executive powers to be given to him I think we can gladly do so, but for any particular section of this Parliament or the

Federation to fight for this is an indication that those fighting for the President in this way are not as grateful to the rest of this Parliament and the rest of the Federation as the holder of the post is.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : I hope my hon. Friend is not misunderstanding what I have said. I am not asking for executive functions to be performed by the President other than that the non-ministerial departments, for which we do not know those who are responsible, could be passed on to this impartial office of Head of State.

**M. Waisul Karni** (Dikwa North) : Our newspapers in this country are free. If our Head of State has any intentions of or is itching to go back to politics, it is the duty of our newspapers to betray such intentions.

**Mallam Ibrahim Gusau** : I only made mention of these points because it is a source of irritation to the minds of the Members of this Parliament and the Federation as a whole whose duty it is to defend the position of our Head of State for any particular set of people, either in this Parliament or even in the Federation, to feel that it is their exclusive duty to fight for or defend the President.

I beg to support.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : Mr Chairman, I did not intend to speak on this Head of the Estimates, but what many Members are saying about the Head of State has prompted me to make some comments.

Our present Head of State has fulfilled his duties and performed his functions far beyond the hopes and expectations of many people. Considering his turbulent political background and militant journalistic past, most people thought he would not divest himself of being political. He has, however, fulfilled the hopes of many people because he has confounded many people who felt that he would not be able to divest himself of that past. He has performed his functions very well. He has now become the symbol of the Nation. The President has ceased to be merely an Ibo man ; he has ceased to be a member of the N.C.N.C. ; he is a Nigerian, and I think that is what all of us should take him for.

That brings me to the question of defending the President. If there is any section of the community which still lays claim to the President personally, I think that section is

House of Representatives Debates

1445

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

2 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1446

derogating from the President's stature. This, however, does not mean that the President could not come under criticisms in the same way as the Sovereign of England comes under criticisms. The Sovereign of England never does anything wrong, but it is his advisers who are said to do wrong. In the same way the President cannot do anything wrong, but his advisers could do wrong, and under this condition I think criticisms could be levelled on some of his actions. But it should not be claimed by anybody or any section of the community that they have any right at all to feel specially and particularly offended by this. I think this is wrong.

Mr Chairman, I think my hon. Friend the Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivou*) has taken the wind off my sails when he mentioned the question of Legal Secretary and Press Secretary for our President. I think those posts are not necessary at all. The Attorney-General is there to do the legal work for the President in the State House and the Minister of Information is there to do the press work of the State House. What then are these officials there for? What are they being paid for? I think the keeping of these posts is a waste of revenue. It is a waste of revenue if the work that the Attorney-General and the Minister of Information could do are being given to some other people who are being paid extra money for doing that work.

Unfortunately, in recent weeks the Minister of Information and those who should have defended the President have not been defending him in the way which we would have liked.

**The Minister of Information** (Mr T. O. S. Benson) : In my ministry we are doing the best possible to defend the President and nobody should blame us if they decide to defend themselves without referring to us. We cannot see all newspapers. If the President is criticised in any of the newspapers that we see we do defend him. But the last one that the hon. Member was referring to was not referred to us at all and so we should not be blamed.

**Mr Briggs** I have to disagree with my hon. Friend the Minister of Information. He has to see all newspapers. That is why he is the Minister of Information. He must see all newspapers, especially those in which there

may be references to the Government of which he is Minister of Information. His failure to see all newspapers may amount to a degree of inefficiency. I am very sorry that I have to say this, because the Minister is my very good friend.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson** : Newspapers are published in the North and if before we receive them somebody gets hold of them and replies to certain criticisms in them, how can we be blamed?

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : I wish to state that the Minister of Information must accept that it is his duty to read all newspapers published in this Republic so that he may be able to safeguard those people who are to be safeguarded by his Ministry. If there are not enough people in his Ministry, he should apply for more money to employ more hands.

**Mr Briggs** : Still talking about criticisms, I am not trying to hold brief for the Editor of the *Daily Express*, but that newspaper's editorial of the 26th was, in my opinion, quite harmless. It has been amply replied to by somebody in the *Daily Express* of to-day. I think that it was a very well written article and I do not think that it is right for anybody in this House, or even outside this House, to feel that because of certain circumstances the President should have been defended in an extraordinary way. If there is anybody here who feel personally that the President has been aggrieved not as a person but as the symbol of the Nation, he should take his pen, as the correspondent of to-day in the *Daily Express* has done, and defend the President, not as a person but as the President of Nigeria.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East) : On a point of order, I would not like the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) to mislead this House. The reply in to-day's *Daily Express* newspaper says : "By an angry Ibo man". Can you imagine that? The Prime Minister has been preaching to us in this House and outside this House to live like Nigerians. Now, the hon. Gentleman expects me to go and reply and tomorrow they will say, "Angry Ibo man replies", when in fact there is an arm of the Government which can do it officially.

**Mr Briggs** : I am sorry my hon. Friend has touched on something which he should not



[MR BRIGGS]

have mentioned. If I reply an article in the papers and they say: "By an angry Kalabari man", why should I be annoyed? I should not be annoyed at all. In any case, the Editor of the *Daily Express* is not in this House.

**The Chairman** : Will hon. Members leave newspaper reports alone and stop using them as basis of argument.

**Mr Briggs** : That is the only contribution I have to make on the State House.

**The Prime Minister** : I find it very difficult to understand why we have this very simple debate on this Head—State House. I agree with those hon. Members who said that it is the duty of all Nigerians to see that the position of the President is really respected and that everything is done to safeguard it. It is not only the duty of this honourable House or that of the Government but it is the duty of every Nigerian, because the President is the symbol of the Nigerian Nation and any disrespect to the President is disrespect to the whole of Nigeria. (*Applause*).

There has been a suggestion that the Government should set up a quasi-departmental organisation to look into the criticisms of the President. I do not think that this is necessary because I want hon. Members to remember that we are less than one year old as a Republic, and I think that Nigeria has done very well in trying to adjust itself with the changes that has taken place. I do not think we should rush into saying this or that because I think all of us are agreed that the President has conducted himself in a most suitable manner as the Head of State. Those of us in Parliament here have been very guarded in all our comments on the Estimates for the State House or about the President's office. I hope the newspapers, which are very free in this country—they are freer than newspapers in any part of the world—will co-operate in giving the Head of the Nigerian Nation the proper respect which the Head of any nation commands, because as I said earlier on, whoever disrespects the President of Nigeria disrespects Nigeria as a whole. (*Hear, hear*).

I wish to inform the House that sometimes people say that we are new in this experiment, but, of course, it might appear that if people get up and try to defend the President, either inside or outside this House, people might

misunderstand it and interpret such defence to mean that they are accepting the President as only belonging to their side. However, I know the President personally, and he has never had that in his mind at all.

I hope that this debate has given us some opportunity to express our views. Our President is the President of the Republic of Nigeria and it is the duty of every Nigerian to give him the respect that he deserves.

£63,160 for Head 21—State House—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 22.—CABINET OFFICE

Question proposed, That £4,838,510 for Head 22.—Cabinet Office—stand part of the Schedule.

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West) : I am happy to be given this opportunity.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central) : On a point of order, I thought that the Order Paper contains the names of hon. Members who will speak.

**Mr Brown** : I rise to support this Head. I must make it quite clear that we, for some time now, have been talking about unity in Nigeria. Events of the past years have shown that the only type of unity that we are talking about is political unity. We are looking for political unity at the expense of national unity. May I say that this country cannot get anywhere if we keep on pursuing political unity at the expense of national unity.

I was very grateful yesterday when the Prime Minister advised hon. Members in this House to desist from making mention of tribes and so on. Now, judging right from the set-up of the Cabinet Office at the Federal level, you will see that there are glaring loopholes. The only way that we can attain national unity in this country is by getting all the sections of the country to be represented at the Centre.

I can see the difficulty in operating a Coalition Government. I have travelled far and wide.

**Mr J. U. Udenyi** (Enyong North) : On a point of order, the Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) is not speaking directly on the Head. He is saying another thing entirely. He should talk on the Head.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East) : On a point of order, the Member for Uyo South

House of Representatives Debates

1449

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

2 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1450

West (*Mr Brown*) is absolutely irrelevant. We are considering Head 22—Cabinet Office. There is nothing like national unity in that Head. This is how hon. Members fan trouble and then there will be replies. He should please speak strictly to the Head.

**The Chairman :** I would like to hear him a little bit more.

**Mr Brown :** I think it is high time we sent the Member for Benin East (*Chief Oronsaye*) to the Senate.

All I am saying is that we know the heavy burden that is on the shoulders of the Prime Minister in operating a Coalition Government. But I am now calling on him to dissolve this Coalition Government forthwith. My reason for making this appeal is that if one looks at the events of the past months, one sees that the junior partner in the Coalition Government is in alliance with the Action Group which is the Opposition Party here. The junior partner is also in alliance with the U.M.B.C.—an opposition party in the North—and it is in alliance with almost all opposition parties in this country and at the same time it claims to be in coalition with the N.P.C. at the Federal level.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East) : It appears that we ruled yesterday that we should not bring intra-party or inter-party troubles on the Floor of this House. In any case, the Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) wants the Prime Minister to get a Minister for Smuggling in the Cabinet so that when the present Coalition is dissolved he would get it.

**The Chairman :** He has not said so, but, perhaps, you are prophesying.

**Mr Brown :** All that I am saying is that the N.C.N.C. is now a security risk to the Federal Government and the nation, and that that party should no longer be tolerated. (*Interruptions.*)

**The Chairman :** Order. Certainly, I cannot allow that to go on.

**Mr Brown :** If there are certain sections in this country that are not well protected by the Regional Governments, the hopes of these sections (which I can call the smaller parts of this country) lie on the Federal Government. If the Federal Government cannot fulfil their hopes of protection, I do not know where we are going from here.

As a matter of fact, I have my reasons for saying that. If one looks at all the minorities of this country, even the smaller ones like the Rivers have their hopes being protected here. The Ogojas have their hopes protected here, and the people of the Mid-West have their hopes protected here. Only the people from Calabar Province have no representation in this House, and their interests are not protected in the Federal Cabinet of this country.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : The Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) does not belong to a minority party any longer. He belongs to the N.P.C. which is a majority political party, and he cannot talk about minority any more because he is protected.

**Mr Brown :** So, as the last resort, I am appealing to the Prime Minister that the only way out as we see it is that it is time that a National Government is formed. If by threatening to wage war against the Federal Government and by buying matchets every morning from the stores is the only way out here—

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : This method of lobbying for ministerial appointments is too degrading for this House.

**Mr Brown :** I must make it quite clear to the Member for Orlu South East that I have no ambition for a ministerial appointment. The Member for Orlu South East and all the people belonging to his school of thought should be ashamed of themselves that after rejecting the Census figures they still go on keeping their Ministerial appointments. Why can they not resign?

**An hon. Member :** Is it being sought now that somebody from Calabar Province should be appointed a Minister ?

**Mr Brown :** If there is any ministerial appointment given to the people of Calabar Province there is nothing wrong with that. After all, the people of Calabar Province are human beings, and they are part and parcel of this Federation. So, I am saying that it is high time that we should—

**Dr Okeke :** On a point of information, the Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) has lost sight of Dr Esin who comes from Calabar Province. In fact, the Member for Uyo South West does not come from Calabar Province.

**Mr Brown** : I am very grateful for having Dr Esin in the Federal Cabinet, but I am saying that Dr Esin came in here through the Senate. The people of Calabar Province have been grateful for having him in the Cabinet here. But may I know after Dr Esin who else from Calabar Province is in the Federal Cabinet ?

**Mr J. U. Udenyi** (Enyong North) : I want to know from the Chairman why he allows the Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) to waste our time.

**The Chairman** : The Member for Enyong North (*Mr Udenyi*) is wasting our time.

**Mr Brown** : I know the attitude of my hon. Friend. Their attitude is that the people in Calabar Province should continue to carry them on their shoulders. The people in Calabar Province have been carrying them on their shoulders without complaint, but now that nature has compelled them to carry other bigger powers on their shoulders they are now complaining. They should keep quiet and remain in the position which God has created for them now.

I am now appealing to the Prime Minister that the unity of this country right from the Cabinet to the lowest section in the country would only be maintained on the national basis if the interests of all sections of this country would be protected and represented on the Federal level.

I beg to support.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central) : It has become fashionable that when one is privileged to speak on any topic—

**The Chairman** : Will the Member for Awka Central speak as loud as he can ?

**Mr Muojeke** : The statements which the Prime Minister made here last Tuesday and yesterday on the matter which has been threatening the unity of the country are the indications of the liberal democratic outlook of this country's respected Prime Minister, and at this time no amount of praises would be too much for what he has been doing to keep and promote the unity of this country.

It was during the visit of the Prime Minister of Great Britain that attacks and counter-attacks, objections and counter-objections were in full swing on the question of Nigerian unity. But I know that the hands of the Prime Minister were then tied up, because he was receiving the greatest Prime Minister of a great nation, Great Britain.

We very often loudly and roundly condemn racial discrimination wherever it is practised, whether it is practised in South Africa, or in the United States of America, or in Great Britain, but when we return to Nigeria we appear to take delight in talking of the tribal differences which differentiate one part of Nigeria from another, instead of talking about our unity.

We know that even in the United States of America there are many nations living together. There are the French, the British, the Japanese and the negroes. Notwithstanding all this, these nationals come together to promote the United States of America to a position where to-day it is the most powerful nation in the world.

The same thing applies to Russia. There are many nations in the Soviet Russia, yet they bind themselves together and when Russia speaks, it speaks with one voice. The same thing applies to India, China and many other progressive countries.

But when we come to Nigeria we try to lose sight of the most important fact that the more we meet with people with different shades of opinion the easier it becomes to solve our problems.

In this great and difficult task of the Prime Minister to try to unite the nation, I might, with the greatest respect refer him to a verse from *Kipling*. It reads :

*"If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you ; if you can trust yourself when all men doubt, yours is the earth and everything that is in it"*.

Whenever the Prime Minister is trying to do anything for the benefit of the nation, he should always draw consolation from what the other Prime Ministers of the world did in their greatest hour of trial.

If anybody or group of persons tries to divert our Prime Minister from the path of rectitude, the Prime Minister should not

worry, he should only say to such persons that his duty as a Prime Minister is not to preside over the disintegration or liquidation of Nigeria which is the greatest and most powerful country in Africa.

Having said so much on that, I would now like to say something about another aspect of the Cabinet Office, and that concerns the giving of technical assistance to African countries.

May I appeal to the Prime Minister that in giving technical assistance to African countries, he must pay special attention to those countries where the black man is badly and abjectly oppressed and suppressed. I have in mind such countries like Angola.

**The Chairman :** The Member for Awka Central (*Mr Muojeke*) should please concentrate on sub-head 1 which he proposes to speak on.

**Mr Muojeke :** I am grateful, Mr Chairman. I have to leave the question of technical assistance to African countries. There is an approach to the European Economic Community and that brings me to what our Minister of Commerce and Industry, has been doing in Geneva at present. He has been telling the members of the European Economic Community that Nigeria is not a beggar nation. We want them to trade with us and not to give us loans and grants.

A sum of about £4 million is to be given as grant to universities. In giving these grants to the universities the Prime Minister should make it a condition that the grants are made for the benefit of the people, some of whom are professors and lecturers. It is not given for the purpose of victimising and oppressing this or that lecturer.

In this respect the Prime Minister should ask the University of Ife to recall those people who were sacked, that is, Dr Aluko and others. We lack academicians in the nature of university professors and lecturers and the few that we have should be retained in our institutions if we are really looking for the progress of this country.

I should like to end on the same note with which I started. To our Prime Minister, eternal praise is due not only for his industry and honesty but also for his statesmanship.

**Alhaji M. Gauyarma (Hadejia North) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I wish to speak in support of this Head 22 which deals with the Cabinet Office.

With the Prime Minister, being the first among equals, I wish to say without exaggeration also that he is the best among his equals, the hon. Ministers. He possesses all the qualities of good leadership, amongst which are tolerance, impartiality, incorruptibility *et cetera*. Every Nigerian should emulate these qualities of the Prime Minister in order to maintain peace and harmony in the country, and with other nations of the world.

Many incidents have marked out the Prime Minister as a great man. I have been highly impressed by his unshakable faith in the unity of this country and his fair play. Recently his faith was tested to a breaking point, but happily he did not fail.

There are certain issues which the cabinet office handled that cause me some concern. It is very surprising how state secrets get out to the public. As soon as a cabinet meeting takes place, the newspapers are always the first to comment on matters discussed at the meeting. Some newspapers even go to the extent of announcing the dates and hours of Cabinet meetings. The question is : who gives these newspapers their information.

A recent incident shows the greatness of the Prime Minister. Nigeria seconded one of her best scholars in the Civil Service to serve with the United Nations. This gentleman's appointment came through but his release was delayed. But for the Prime Minister's personal intervention, this gentleman would still be in Nigeria now. At the time the United Nations made the offer of appointment to him, he was also offered promotion here at home.

The Cabinet Office leads the other arms of the Civil Service. This House would no longer want to see such humiliation and disgrace happen again, particularly when brilliant civil servants are concerned. It was later discovered that the civil servant was being humiliated because he is superior intellectually, to some other people.

The Cabinet Office has found out that in many instances the rights of some brilliant officers have been violated. The unfortunate thing is that these intellectuals in the Civil

[ALHAJI GAUYARMA]

Service ignore their less brilliant colleagues by not joining them in their intrigues. And each time we need their brains they offer them as if they are the only people who should serve this country.

I want to thank the Prime Minister for his prompt action in releasing one such civil servant in spite of delays others put in his way. I want also to ask that the Prime Minister should release other civil servants as soon as the World Organisations ask for their services. The fact that they are considered fit for international appointments is a pride to Nigeria. Indeed, the worth of a scholar is determined not by his lobbying in the country but by the recognition accorded him by international bodies.

Earlier on, I spoke on the Commissions of Inquiry appointed by the Prime Minister. I also spoke of the stories carried by certain newspapers that some files in connection with an Inquiry appointed by the Prime Minister were destroyed. The Inquiry was set up to look into certain allegations of corruption and submit a report to the Cabinet Office.

What has the Secretary to the Prime Minister, as the Head of the Civil Service, done to the civil servants who destroyed these files? In this particular instance I am referring to the "deal" about the Fokker Friendship planes. Of course, a game of hide and seek was played there and what a dirty game it was.

In the case of some other Commissions of Inquiry, their findings were a disgrace to our Civil Service. I must say, however, that there were some civil servants who were completely innocent and there were some others who committed criminal offences in their attempt to victimise some others.

In all these, we found that these reports were buried because some senior civil servants were involved. Where, then, is rectitude in our civil service, if I may ask. Why must thieves be covered up and our laws degraded because the Cabinet so ruled?

I am saying that the air must be cleared and that our law officers must be set busy. A word is enough for the wise. It is not my intention, Mr Chairman, to come here and speak on a matter about which I do not know much.

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh** (Ishan West): On a point of order, I want to remind the Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Gauyarma*) that we are in the Committee Stage.

**Alhaji Gauyarma**: I always speak on facts and with the force of facts, I always endeavour to put the right pegs into the right holes.

The Prime Minister, we all know, is humble, God-fearing and gentle, but it is very sad to see that quite a lot of things are going on in the Cabinet Office, under the cover of the Prime Minister's holiness. I say that these things must be checked and stamped out.

I wish to stress also that our Ministers must be able to adapt themselves to changing circumstances and copy the humility and good leadership of the Prime Minister. I must tell the Prime Minister that there are some of his N.C.N.C. Ministers who must desist from practices of corruption.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South): On a point of order, the Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Gauyarma*) is imputing improper motives. There is no reason why he should mention N.C.N.C. Ministers when N.P.C. Ministers are in the same Cabinet.

**The Minister of Aviation** (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe): On a point of order, Sir, I would ask that the Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Gauyarma*) should withdraw what he has just said. This type of language is getting too much.

**The Chairman**: I would not like specific mention of N.C.N.C. Ministers.

**Alhaji Gauyarma**: I must ask the Prime Minister to check his N.C.N.C. Ministers from practices of—

**The Minister of Finance**: (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I must ask the hon. Member to withdraw that statement if he cannot mention specific names. He should not be making such statements on the Floor of this House.

**The Chairman**: Will the Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Gauyarma*) please avoid specific mention of N.C.N.C. Ministers.

**Dr Mbadiwe**: On a point of order, I am asking that the Chairman should please ask the

hon. Member to withdraw; otherwise he should mention the person.

**The Chairman :** I do not think there should be too much alarm by Ministers whose confidence and integrity, this honourable House has never doubted. Minor criticisms by back benchers, whether political or otherwise, should not be taken seriously.

**Alhaji Gauyarma :** With all seriousness, I wish to protest on behalf of my colleagues, particularly the N.P.C. parliamentarians, that on no account and in no circumstance should our integrity be challenged, as was done by this particular N.C.N.C. Minister who pointed accusing fingers and made abusive gestures at us. This is no joke, Mr Chairman. It is a disgrace to us; it is unfair and it is also an abuse of office by the Minister.

In conclusion, I wish to say that the Prime Minister should be rest assured of our implicit confidence in him. I wish to say that we all support him; we all are with him always.

I beg to support.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** I have never liked to praise people in this House, particularly the Ministers. I have never liked it at all, but on this occasion I think I have to praise the Prime Minister a bit.

The Prime Minister has shown himself as a man of very high integrity. I think this country is fortunate to have a man like him at this time of our country's evolution. His image has been projected in such a way that the image of Nigeria among other African States is that of a country which should be respected and trusted and not feared; that is the image of our Prime Minister. Nobody fears him but everybody respects him. And for that reason, I have to depart from my usual way of criticising the Ministers as a whole and praise my very good friend the Prime Minister.

I must say, however, that in the case of the Niger Delta Development Board the Prime Minister has disappointed quite a lot of us. We have every time, every year, since the Niger Delta Development Board came into existence, asked that the Board be given executive powers. And each time this appeal has fallen on deaf ears. I do not know the reason behind it.

I do not know why the Prime Minister feels that to give executive powers to the Niger

Delta Development Board would be offending the laws of the Medes and the Persians. But even in this modern world of 1964, the laws of the Medes and the Persians can be amended or changed. We feel that a mere advisory status is not only derogatory to the Niger Delta Development Board but also an insult to the people of the Niger Delta area which the Board purports to serve.

The insult is that the Niger Delta Development Board caters for the people of the Niger Delta area and if it is not considered capable of taking executive decisions I think it is an insult to the people. The Board has got to advise the Federal Government; it has got to advise the Regional Governments, in which case it has got to advise three Regions in order that its decisions might be implemented. I am appealing to the Prime Minister to think very seriously about it.

Now I go to the representation in the Senate. I am really very sorry that up till to-day the Rivers people have no representation in the Senate. The nominated and purported representative for this area is Senator Chief Z. C. Obi. Now Senator Chief Z. C. Obi is, with due respect to him, not a Rivers man. He does not know the difficulties of the Rivers people. He has never reached any part of the Rivers. He is a prominent businessman in Port Harcourt.

He is a native of Nnewi and the President General of the Ibo State Union. I am humbly appealing to the Prime Minister to see to it that we have a more effective representation.

**Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt) :** The hon. Member is misleading the House. Senator Chief Obi is from Port Harcourt. He has lived in Port Harcourt for over 45 years. He has a right to represent that area and he is very well qualified.

**Mr Briggs :** Senator Chief Obi is a gentleman of high repute and I respect him very much. He is a wealthy man. He is a very good man. But all what I am saying is that on point of principle the Parliament should see to it that somebody from the Rivers area that is either Kalabari, Okrika, Bonny, Ahoad, Ogoni, or Ndoki area should represent the Rivers people. Why should Senator Chief Obi be appointed to represent them?

**The Chairman :** The appointment of Senators is not the direct responsibility of the Prime Minister.

**Mr Briggs :** With due respect to the Chairman, all what I am saying is that it is the duty of the Prime Minister to close up any vacuum that is created in the representation of any people and since we are on the Head of Estimates dealing with some of the functions of the Prime Minister, others of his functions which are left out are pertinent for discussion.

I agree with the Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) when he said that if there is any section of the Nigerian community which is not adequately protected, the party that should protect it is this Federal House and for that matter, the Prime Minister. That is why I am turning to this House to appeal to the Prime Minister to see to it that a more effective representation should be given to the Rivers people in the Senate.

I am not attacking anybody. It is not on the basis of tribalism at all. But all what I am saying is that they should appoint anybody, either from Ahoada, Ogoni, or any other place in the Rivers area who will represent our interests; somebody who knows the sufferings of the people, should represent them.

**Mr Okay :** The Chairman gave a ruling that representation in the Senate is not the business of this House. It is a regional matter and in the Senate representation is made on provincial basis. I would like the hon. Member to take note of that and not to challenge the ruling of the Chairman.

**Mr Briggs :** I am not saying that Senator Chief Obi should be dismissed right away. What I am saying is that the Prime Minister should appoint people to represent interests which are not adequately represented. After all the Prime Minister appointed Senator Dr Esin and Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi.

*Minister of State (Senator Dr E. A. Esin) rose.*

**Mr Briggs :** I apologise to the Senator, Dr Esin. It was not the Prime Minister who appointed him. But the Prime Minister appointed Senator Chief Majekodunmi. He also appointed Mr L. C. Daldry, a European, who is no longer in the Senate. These two men were appointed by the Prime Minister to represent interests which were not adequately represented.

I am appealing to the Prime Minister that while retaining Senator Chief Obi in the Senate if he likes to represent any other interest, he should appoint somebody to represent the Rivers people effectively in the Senate. That is all what I am saying.

**Mr M. B. Afanideh (Ikot Ekpene South) :** It is often said on the Floor of this House that the unity of Nigeria must be maintained. I want to say that what is applicable to the Rivers is also applicable to the people of Calabar. The Senator for Calabar is not an indigene of Calabar. He is somebody from Arochuku who is residing in Calabar.

**The Chairman :** Order, Order. After all, there is no community which is not represented in this House.

**Mr Briggs :** If my appeal goes to the right quarters and if it is implemented I shall be very happy and so will all the Rivers people. There are very many prominent people in the Rivers area. There are men like Chief Douglas Jaja of Opobo. He is a staunch N.C.N.C. member. He could be appointed. So can most other persons in the Rivers Area.

We of the Action Group in the Eastern Nigeria are not looking forward to it because we are not expecting anything from the N.C.N.C. But there are prominent N.C.N.C. men in the Rivers who could be appointed to represent the Rivers people in the Senate effectively.

I have nothing against Senator Chief Obi. As I said, if you want to keep him, keep him there to represent some other interests, but he is representing no interest about the Rivers people because he does not know the Rivers.

I beg to support.

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa) :** If I had got the opportunity to speak on this Head three days ago, I think I should have made a mistake by attacking the Prime Minister foolishly. Now I have got the opportunity of knowing the Prime Minister better since I listened to him yesterday. His statement yesterday gave me a different impression of the type of leader we have in Nigeria in the person of the Prime Minister.

I had always thought of him as a teacher. I had always thought of him as a philosopher. I had always thought of him as a politician.

But since yesterday I have come to regard him as a statesman.

**Mr Afanideh :** The hon. Member should withdraw his statement because it is wrong for him to say that it was only yesterday that he recognised the Prime Minister as a statesman whereas he has been in this House for four years and this is his fifth year.

It is very wrong of him to give that impression on the Floor of this House.

**The Chairman :** I do hope that the Member for Ikot Ekpene South (*Mr Afanideh*) understands that people are different from one another and that some are not quick in understanding.

**Mr Gbolagunte :** Thank you, Sir. My understanding is quite different from his.

I rise to praise the Prime Minister for the way he handles the affairs of this nation. Within the last few weeks the country has been under tension and the Prime Minister within the last few days, has made several statements which have made the whole people in this country to feel that we as a nation can go on together no matter how many tribes we have.

When the census problem came up, we had statements made from several angles of the country. But the Prime Minister on the Floor of this House said that the admission of the census figures was the responsibility of the Prime Minister and his Cabinet and that they had accepted the census figures.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : On a point of order, my hon. Friend is sitting on a keg of gun powder. He is misquoting the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister did not say exactly what he has just quoted on the Floor of this House. The Prime Minister made three sentences. He did not say anything about his Cabinet. So, Mr Chairman, you had better advise the hon. Member to drop the census issue because it is a keg of gun powder.

**The Chairman :** There is no need for precipitation on this.

**Mr Gbolagunte :** Thank you, Mr Chairman. I was going to say that in future we shall be relieved of these confusions if we begin to think as Nigerians and if we accept the type of Federation that we say we want. We want a

Federal government and not a unitary one. And so, I think we shall have more states created and not continue to think in terms of regions. It is thinking in terms of regions that induces us to make several statements about the census. If we have many more states whose populations are, say, two to three millions each we will begin to think in terms of one Nigeria, and so we shall all have greater confidence in ourselves.

The Prime Minister also made a statement which I think he should change. He made certain statements here last year. Considering what is happening in the country to-day and also considering the feelings of the people in the country, he will perhaps have to change his opinion. I will quote him from the *Hansard* of 23rd March, 1962 Volume I, Column 114, Page 73. Talking about creation of states the Prime Minister said—

*I have never subscribed to the idea of breaking up this country into bits.*

He continued—

*If a particular tribe is foolish enough—the Action Group, if they continue in their work of confusion, if they continue to ask us to divide them into bits—we shall always see to it that they are broken up into bits.*

I think that the Prime Minister has forgotten this because the statement he made yesterday seemed to have covered that. I think that when we begin to think in terms of Nigerians, and when we begin to think that the more states we have the more confidence we shall have in ourselves, the Prime Minister will change his opinion.

He also made a statement a few days ago when a Member of Parliament in England appealed to him on the giving of clemency to political prisoners. At that time he replied that he kept an open mind about the release of political prisoners. I think that was a statesman's remark.

On the Floor of this House, a few days ago, a Member on the N.C.N.C. Bench, and an Ibo man at that, a Mid-Westerner, made a call upon the Prime Minister and the President. In fact he reminded the Prime Minister of the statement of "keeping an open mind". He called upon him to release Chief Obafemi Awolowo in order that the latter will be in a position to lead the Yorubas. The day after a Member from Northern Nigeria made a



[MR GBOLAGUNTE]  
contrary statement, that Chief Awolowo should stay in prison.

I am not going to quarrel with anybody. But as a Yoruba man from Western Nigeria, I am appealing to the Prime Minister, in fact reminding him of his "keeping an open mind" statement about the release of political prisoners, about the giving of clemency to political prisoners, to please release Chief Obafemi Awolowo in order that he may come back and lead the Yorubas. This is the voice of Western Nigeria.

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West): On a point of information, it was Mr E. O. Eyo that first went to prison as a political prisoner. If anybody is going to be released, it must be Mr E. O. Eyo who should be first released.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed): On a point of order, it is not proper for a Member to raise on the Floor of this House a matter that is pending in court.

**The Chairman**: As a matter of fact this matter is still pending in court, and it should be avoided.

**Mr Gbolagunte**: Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**Mr J. O. Ede** (Idoma North): On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman on the Action Group Bench is only trying to pollute the air of unity that is existing in the whole country. The incident took place in order to breed confusion and do great havoc to lives and property in the whole Federation. But, fortunately, the Nigerian Police were very vigilant and they took adequate care of the offenders. The leader of the gang is now in prison. This is for the good of everybody. I do not know why the Member is now pleading for his release.

**Mr Gbolagunte**: I have no quarrel with anybody who is expressing his own opinion. I have directed my appeal to the right quarters.

The Prime Minister is in a position to continue to maintain the peace of this country. If a section of the country is in tumult, the whole country will suffer.

A few days ago we got a paper produced from Western Nigeria called a White Paper which was attacking a section of the country. Yesterday, we got a counter attack. Now, this will continue for a long time if the Prime

Minister does not intervene. I do not agree with a Regional Government that is trying to attack a tribe. And I do not have any quarrel with anybody who is trying to defend himself. But if we allow such things to continue, we shall begin to quarrel amongst ourselves on tribal basis instead of coming together as Nigerians. So, I hope that the Prime Minister will look into such things and see that all these bickerings are stopped so that the country can come together in peace.

On this Head of Estimates, I see some provision for ministerial tours within Nigeria by our Ministers. This is very necessary. We have heard of our Ministers going overseas, perhaps to invite investors. But I doubt if the Ministers know as much of Nigeria as they know of overseas countries. So this is a very good step. It is now very good that Ministers should go round and know all about the country. We should not begin to think of ourselves as having known more of the East than of the West or of the West than of the East. These tours are going to make for internal cohesion and understanding.

I have also seen something about the National Universities Commission. I have seen also a lot of subvention to Regional universities. The National Universities Commission has been very useful. I think that they can be much more useful by advising all the universities in the Regions, especially if we have to give up to £102,000 by way of subvention to our Regional Universities.

The Regional Government should be advised by the Federal Government to please keep Regional Universities out of politics. In fact, no university should portray politics of any sort in herself.

I beg to refer to Ife University where, perhaps on political grounds, capable Professors, Senior Lecturers and Lecturers were removed just like that. I do not think I can be qualified enough to teach in a university. I am now teaching in a Teacher Training College. But if I am removed from the Teacher Training College to-day it will take a month or two before a person as capable as I am will be found to replace me. How much more in a university where we have Professors and Lecturers removed over-night! It is the students who will suffer. It is the parents

*House of Representatives Debates*

1465

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

2 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1466

who spend money on these undergraduates who will suffer. Eventually the undergraduates will graduate and they will be embittered against the Government of the day. So, I hope that the Federal Government will be able to advise the Regional Governments on keeping politics away from their universities.

£20,000, I feel, is too small to be given as technical assistance to African countries. One will expect that more lawyers will still go over to East Africa. One will also expect that much more money should be given to the people of Angola. And one will expect also that we should begin to give money to the nationalists of South Africa who are against the present South African Government.

A few days ago the South African Government were boasting that they were quite sure that the whole army of the other African countries could not reach South Africa because they had friends all around them. They said that we could not pass through South West Africa; through Southern Rhodesia; nor could we pass through Mozambique. So, if we have to give money to all these African countries, let us give sufficient amount to help them possibly to buy arms and ammunition to protect themselves. £20,000 is too small. We should do more for these countries.

With these few words, I beg to support.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North) : I wish to associate myself with the previous speakers in the praises which have been showered on our Prime Minister. I must assure him that throughout the whole country, the people have implicit confidence in him. That is very important. It is true that we have many other leaders, but I think that even the man in the street has got a peculiar image of the Prime Minister—an image of a straightforward man. Each time, even in times of national crisis, people always wait to hear what the Prime Minister has to say, and on many occasions their tempers are cooled immediately the Prime Minister speaks his mind. So, I hope that the Prime Minister will continue in this vein.

I have to say that the Cabinet has also done its work collectively, that is to say, that there has been a team spirit for a number of years now, and that has been responsible for the

efficiency of the Federal Government which is clearly shown and which is also appreciated throughout Africa and outside Africa. I have to say that this spirit of co-operation and teamwork should continue.

There is a provision in the Estimates for the National Universities Commission and also for subsidy for our Universities. The Government is to be congratulated for this large sum of money which has been earmarked for the development of our Universities. I understand that the method of distribution of the subsidy is as follows: Ibadan University and Lagos University, both of them have got 100 per cent Government subsidy; the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, 30 per cent; Ife University, 30 per cent; and Ahmadu Bello University, 50 per cent. While I do not want to offend any particular section, I think these Universities belong to Nigeria. Students are admitted from all parts of the country, irrespective of Region of origin or tribal origin, and I think it would be fair if the rate of distribution of the subsidy is made uniform. That is to say, that the Regional Universities should each have the same proportion of the subsidy instead of one receiving 50 per cent, another 30 per cent and the other 30 per cent.

An alternative suggestion would be for the Federal Government to take up the management of the Regional Universities as well, as at present the Regional Governments are finding it difficult to manage the Universities as well as to maintain the high standard of efficiency in other sections of education. If the Federal Government takes over the Universities, it will help the Regional Governments to concentrate on primary and secondary education, so that if it is a question of financial difficulties they can use part of the money saved by the Federal Government's taking over the Regional Universities to cater for their other sections of education.

There is another point I wish to make. Somebody has mentioned how desirable it is for our Ministers to tour the Federation. I hope that this will not just be on paper but that Ministers should make it a point of duty to travel more in the country than outside the country. There is a general complaint all the time that our Ministers find it more desirable or more convenient to tour overseas and many of them know more about overseas countries than they

[MR OGBALU]  
do of Nigeria itself. If Ministers really tour the Regions, meet people in various quarters, say, in towns and some villages, that will help us to have more cordial relationship and more understanding among ourselves.

At this juncture, I cannot, in fact, remember how many Ministers of Northern origin who have toured the Eastern Region, or of Eastern origin who have toured the North or of Western origin who have toured the East. That is the point. Many people do not even know some of the Ministers, let me not single out any particular Minister. They only have their pictures and read about them but they never see them. I think that this provision will help our Ministers a little more to tour the country. I remember when the Prime Minister visited the Eastern Region some time ago, the amount of enthusiasm with which people travelled several miles to Onitsha and Port Harcourt in order to see him was great. I think the impression which he left on them is indelible, and I still maintain that the Prime Minister, notwithstanding his state duties and many other commitments which he has, both international and national, should make it a point of duty to travel in the Federation to visit more places so that the people can know him and understand the difficulties of the Federal Government.

There is also another point which I wish to make before I resume my seat and that is still on the Cabinet. I have said that there has been a demonstration of a great sense of responsibility and team-work. We know that Cabinet is governed by two principles one of which is individual responsibility and the other collective responsibility. That is the essence of Cabinet Government, which is to say that if a Minister wants to advise the Prime Minister, certainly, he would go to the Cabinet or go to the Prime Minister himself and give him his advice. I think it is wrong for a Cabinet Minister to go outside the Cabinet and outside Parliament to advise the Prime Minister or the Government. In this connection, I must have to say that I am very much displeased by the manner in which the Minister of Information went out to suggest that the Chairman of the Railway Corporation, Dr Ikejiani, should be dismissed. He should have given the advice to the Prime Minister within the Cabinet and not to go outside the Cabinet and give it out to

the public. That is a demonstration of cabinet irresponsibility, of the first order too. I hope that such a thing would not be repeated.

Again, Cabinet decisions should be kept secret. If the secret understanding in the Cabinet is made open to the public, I think the Government certainly will face a very grave problem in trying to maintain any sense of solidarity. So, I hope, as I said earlier, that the team spirit and collective responsibility with which the Government has been working for four years now would continue and any tendencies towards its disruption should be discountenanced or, at least, should be discouraged.

I beg to support.

**Mr T. I. Etukudo** (Eket West) : I am really very happy for the opportunity you have given me to-day. Unfortunately, I stood up repeatedly—

**Several hon. Members** : Louder !

**Mr Etukudo** : Mr Chairman, can I have your permission to go nearer to the loud-speaker ?

Before I go further, I have to express—

**The Minister for Ports** (Mr Mbazulike Amechi) : On a point of order, the Member for Eket West (*Mr Etukudo*) is not speaking from his seat.

**The Chairman** : He was sitting quite a long way from the nearest microphone and it would be for the convenience of the House for him to draw a bit nearer.

**Mr Etukudo** : The point is that the Minister for Ports (*Mr Amechi*) never writes in the papers. If he were to write in the papers, I would ask him to tender an apology.

I would like to say on behalf of the people of the Old Calabar Province that we have accepted the preliminary census figures.

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West) : I rise to support what the Member for Eket West (*Mr Etukudo*) has said that we have accepted the preliminary census figures.

**Mr N. D. Ukah** (Owerri North East) : I do not think this is a Motion that needs seconding by the Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*).

**The Chairman :** I will not put the Question.

**Mr Etukudo :** Whatever is the rumpus in the Eastern Region about the preliminary census figures, we are not interested and we are not going to take part.

**Mr Mbazulike Amechi :** On a point of order, I have to say that what the hon. Member is saying has no relevance to the Head of Estimates we are discussing.

The hon. Prime Minister has reported on the census and Members have been told that the matter was up there at the top level. If a Member will deliberately bring this matter which is clearly controversial in this House, then naturally Members on the other side of the House should be given a chance to reply, and this is a situation we do not want to develop.

**The Chairman :** I think it is wise not to bring this controversial issue again in this House.

**Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North) :** On a point of order, it is folly that very many Members intend to waste the time of the House by raising unnecessary points of order.

**Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East) :** The Member for Idoma North is one of them.

**Mr Ede :** I am not.

**Mr Etukudo :** I should like to congratulate the Prime Minister on the able way in which he has been discharging his duties. In fact, from the way the Prime Minister has been discharging his duties, he has demonstrated to the world that he is a peace-maker and a God-fearing Prime Minister.

I whole heartedly support every penny that is provided under this Head because it is the Head under the Prime Minister who does not believe on capitalism. (*Interruptions*). I know my hon. Friends opposite are communists, that is why they are against socialists.

**Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) :** On a point of order, the Member for Eket West (*Mr Etukudo*) is imputing an improper motive on the Prime Minister.

**Several hon. Members :** No, no, no.

**Dr Okeke :** He has just said that the Prime Minister is not a capitalist, implying that he is a communist since he said that he was going to Russia.

**The Chairman :** It looks you are imputing an improper motive.

**Mr Etukudo :** The point I want to stress seriously is ministerial tours within Nigeria. We from the Old Calabar Province, our political aim is to achieve our own right of self-determination, and I am fully convinced now that from ministerial tours within the country the Prime Minister will be able to see things with his own eyes and then determine when to create a fifth Region for us to be known as the South Eastern State.

Calabar was at one time the capital of this country.

**Dr Okeke :** Why is it not now ?

**Mr Etukudo :** Yes, because we do not come to the N.C.N.C. I will never join a party which is as inconsistent as the N.C.N.C.

**Mr P. O. Eleke (Okigwi South East) :** On a point of order, I would like the hon. Member speaking to tell this House where he is keeping his car. He is afraid of keeping his car outside because the U.P.P. will seize it.

**Mr Etukudo :** I know nearly all the N.C.N.C. Members are debtors. They have signed several agreements.

**Mr Brown :** I wish to point out that there is no party in this country known at present as the U.P.P. There must have been such a party in the past, but it seems it has been dissolved, and my hon. Friend is owing the Federal Government for his car and not the U.P.P.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) :** I think in all fairness, and apart from the regular Parliamentary jokes, the hon. Member should withdraw the statement that the N.C.N.C. Members are debtors. I am not a debtor.

**The Chairman :** This has unfortunately slipped away from my ears.

**Mr Etukudo :** I have already said that the point I want to stress is ministerial tours within Nigeria. I know that, especially in the rural areas, most of our Ministers are not known and, perhaps, some people have never seen them before in their lives. It is the yearning of the people in the rural areas to see what our Ministers look like. I know there will be a

[MR ETUKUDO]

big difference in the eyes of the people in the rural areas between the Federal Ministers and the Regional Ministers.

If a Regional Minister comes to this House at this moment, every Member present, I am sure, will immediately see the difference. He will be stout and huge because they are sitting there in the Regions doing absolutely nothing. The Ministers in the Federal Government are hard-working. Really they are concentrating on how to build the nation. (*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman :** Order, order. There is too much noise on my right.

**Mr Etukudo :** I know that at the moment some of my hon. Friends over there are in trouble, that is why they are just trying to find where they should hang upon.

**Dr Okeke :** There are two things about Calabar. Calabar was the old slave port, and Calabar Parliamentarians are the most marketable in this country.

**The Chairman :** The hon. Member is insisting on irrelevancies and, unfortunately, every remark made by him is responded to by hon. Members. It seems Members have completed their speeches on this Head. I would like seriously to warn Members that we have quite a number of Heads to consider to-day. With our time so limited, I would not like Members to be embarrassed by the guillotine at the end. Perhaps, it might be more convenient for us to get rid of this Head and continue with the other Heads which also deserve our debate.

£4,838,510 for Head 22.—*Cabinet Office—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

#### HEAD 23.—POLICE

*Question proposed, That £6,234,060 for Head 23.—Police—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie (Enugu) :** There are certain things I wish to point out on this Head. The first one is on the system of promotion in the Police Force. I do not know whether the Minister responsible for the Police is aware that there is much criticism against the present system of promotion, because if you look round you will find some corporals, sergeants, inspectors and A.S.Ps. for that matter who have

served for many years and are still in the same position up to now. Some have put in twenty to twenty-five years but there is no hope of promotion, and at times when they go in for examination you will see people coming out in the first, second and third positions being superseded by the man in the eighth position. What we are saying is that if examination is going to be a true basis for promotion well people who do very well should be selected.

I do not know what plans the Minister has for these men who have put in twenty to twenty-five years service who have passed the G.C.E. in four subjects. Last year I spoke to the Minister for Police Affairs (*Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju*) about this and he assured me that if any policeman had passed four subjects in the G.C.E. including English and Mathematics he would be duly considered. But I made it clear to the Minister that to include mathematics is a barrier, because there are not many policemen now given the opportunity to study mathematics and, in any case, what contribution can that subject make to police work. The policemen are not there for the purpose of adding and subtracting.

I believe that accountancy is a different thing from mathematics, and what I am saying is that a constable with four subjects in G.C.E. including English, if he is a sergeant, has merited promotion to the inspectorate grade. This idea of taking on youngmen from the colleges to be cadet inspectors is all right, but it is in the Police Force particularly that a man is required to go from the bottom upwards if he is going to do his work very well.

There are about twenty policemen I know holding the G.C.E. but are not promoted, while young boys are made to supersede them in spite of their experience and years of service.

I know that when it comes to the question of investigation a policeman who is capable of understanding the English language very well and can write it very well is the type of person required for that sort of job. Accountancy is a specialised occupation and policemen who are good in mathematics can be taken. What I am saying is that generally the idea of including mathematics is to cause barrier in promotion, because nowadays people with primary six are recruited into the Force and there is no opportunity for them to go on studying mathematics.

House of Representatives Debates

1473

[Appropriation (1964-65)

2 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1474

This point should be considered by the Minister and he should look round to find these men with the G.C.E. And, of course, if he wants them I will give him the list of all those policemen I know holding the G.C.E. That is a fact because I am always speaking authoritatively on everything concerning my constituency.

**An hon. Member :** Is Police your constituency ?

**Mr Chiedozie :** Yes, I come from an area predominantly a police area. Those of us who are representing Enugu constituency must speak on everything concerning that constituency and, of course, police is one of them which is uppermost in our minds.

The other point is the question of insuring the lives of policemen. I will hit this very hard because in the reply of the Prime Minister to one of my Motions, that point was omitted. The point I am making is that some of these policemen are engaged on a risky venture like anti-smuggling activities.

Sometimes they go on investigation they are killed ; where there is riot a lot of them are exposed to danger and are killed ; but what happens to the dependants and children of these men who are killed as a result ? That is what people want to know. It is not a matter of just saying if you are a constable and there is a riot and you get killed, that is the end of it all. When a man has got a lot of children and dependants what will happen if he dies while discharging his duty ? That is what we are asking. Therefore the policeman's life should be insured if he is going to undertake a risky venture which might involve his life. That is the point I am making and I want the point to go deep into the mind of the Minister for Police Affairs.

I think that if we can insure our lives I do not see the reason why policemen who defend us and who are exposed to all sorts of hazards should not have their lives insured. For instance, some of them who went to the Congo may have been killed, I do not know ; but I know one inspector was killed. What happened to the dependants nobody can say. I think this is one of the things the Minister should consider.

**Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) :** On a point of order, I think the Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*) has defended the Police so very well that I recommend him to be the next Deputy Inspector-General of Police.

**M. Yakubu Allanana (Akwanga) :** I rise to say something about the Police Force. I know we have just passed a Motion concerning the raising and improvement of the service conditions of the policemen ; but all the same I should like to add something more.

The first relates to the provision of accommodation for the policemen. I feel very sad in my mind that some of our policemen have not got suitable accommodation to stay in, particularly in the Northern Region. Newly recruited men are quartered in the townships, not in the barracks, and they are finding this very inconvenient. I am appealing to our able Prime Minister to erect more barracks for our policemen in the Northern Region and other places throughout the country.

The other point concerns the posting of policemen to all out-stations and railway stations to protect passengers from having their loads stolen by thieves and highway men. Travelling passengers are always worried because thieves and other gamblers have infested all corners of the country. Therefore, all the police men that would be posted to this station should stay there permanently so that they can keep peace and order.

I should like to say more about promotions in the Police Force. I know very well that policemen from Northern Nigeria do not get promotions as rapidly as one might think. I appeal to the Prime Minister to see to it that the policemen from Northern Nigeria are promoted as soon as vacancies occur.

I beg to support.

**Oba S. A. Oladiran (Okitipupa South) :** I rise to support Head 23—Police. A few minutes ago, certain Members here were saying that the Local Government Police Force in the Western Region and the N.A. Police in the Northern Region should be merged with the Nigeria Police Force. I do not associate myself with that expression in that N.A. Police Force in the Northern Region are doing excellent work to help to maintain law and order. The Local Government Police Force in the Western Region are doing similar work.

[OBA OLADIRAN]

As an example, the Nigeria Police Force are not located in many places in the Western Region and the Local Government Police Force do similar job which the Nigeria Police ought to perform effectively. The Local Government Police are under the control of a Senior Police Officer.

I would appeal to the Prime Minister to make arrangements for the setting up of a police contingent along the Lagos-Benin Road because many vehicles from the Eastern Region will now be using the road. I do not want robbers to disturb the people in the area. We have heard on several occasions that robbers ambush travellers coming from Eastern Region.

**Mr E. O. Araka** (Onitsha Urban): On a point of order, I think the Member for Okitipupa South (*Mr Oladiran*) should be asked to be more polite in his speech. He should not refer to the people coming from the Eastern Region as robbers.

**Mr Chairman** : Order ! The Member for Okitipupa South did not say that people from the Eastern Region are robbers.

**Oba Oladiran** : I am grateful for your protection, Mr Chairman. What I am saying is that after the completion of that road, traffic will be heavy on it, and as such I would advise the Prime Minister to locate a police station between Ajebandele and Ore.

Another point that strikes my mind is the quarters for the Nigeria Police Force. I think the Federal Government for arranging accommodation suitable for the police in my own division. Still, I would advise the Government to establish more police posts in that division. The area is very large and it requires supervision by the Nigeria Police Force.

I beg to support.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : Mr Chairman, I have just a few observations to make on this Head. The Nigeria Police have been doing commendable work. We must give praise to whom the praise is due. I shall make an exception very soon.

The security of this country depends on the efficiency of the police. The police are safeguarding our personal liberties and properties.

I feel that if much depends on what the police do to protect our lives and our properties, it is just right and proper that we pay the police adequate salaries. The salaries we pay our police officers from top to bottom are inadequate when compared with the work they do in this country.

These people are called out at all times to work. They work at odd hours. They work overtime without overtime pay. If you work overtime in an industry, you are paid for it. If you are employed by a firm to work overtime, you are paid for it. It is only the Police Force that work overtime without pay. I am not advocating that the Police Force should be paid overtime. But if the Police Force is not paid overtime, the Force must be paid adequate salary to compensate for the fatigue and the sacrifice it makes. When the policemen are at work, many of the people who work normal hours are resting or enjoying themselves at night clubs and in many places.

I would like to pay a special tribute to the C.I.D. The C.I.D. are doing commendable work. Well, there may be exceptions, but by and large, the C.I.D. in this country are doing a very good job. We must praise them.

There is only one note of warning that I would like to sound and that is in connection with the Traffic Police. The public has been very dissatisfied with the performances of the traffic policemen. It may not be the fault of the men ; maybe we are contributing to the inefficiency and the corruption in the traffic section because it takes two to make a fight. If no one gives a bribe, no one will take it. The public are equally guilty.

Our drivers are always so much in a hurry and when a policeman catches an offending driver, that driver either pays two or three shillings in order to avoid going to court. The police take the money and let the driver off. I am saying that both of them are guilty —

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : I think the only experience the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) has with the traffic policemen is in the running of his private car : otherwise, he might have known that in some areas, the system has been so established that a commercial driver, particularly if he is a passenger bus driver who is not prepared to pay the toll, offences are cooked up for him.

*House of Representatives Debates*

1477

[Appropriation (1964-65)

2 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1478

**Dr Okeke :** My hon. Friend is a businessman, a transporter and a motor magnet who knows the road, and I am obliged to him for this information. Right here, all of us agree that it is difficult for the traffic men to work efficiently. We corrupt them and they corrupt us. They demand and we give them bribe. He who demands is as guilty as he who gives.

I am suggesting that we forget about the traffic policemen and take them off the roads. Leave our roads clear of these policemen.

**Several hon. Members :** No !

**Dr Okeke :** When a policeman catches an offending man, he does not threaten to prosecute the driver immediately. The Minister in charge of police affairs should station C.I.D. men who are unknown to drivers in various parts of the roads. These men should take a record of the offenders, but should not take them to court immediately. They should send the records to a central police office where they should be kept and when an offender commits an offence about three times, such an offender should be debarred from driving for ever. We know that when a driver comes across a police officer on the road and escapes right then, the matter ends right then and there. There is no record of it and the driver cannot be remembered anymore. If he pays money, he goes away. But if we keep records and we process the drivers at intervals of three, four or six months and disqualify those who are habitual offenders, I think that the propensity to collect money from drivers in order to avoid prosecuting them will be curbed, on the part of our policemen. This is a very serious situation.

When the traffic policemen who are supposed to be protecting the Nigerian masses from the menace of dangerous drivers and those transport owners who would like to pack their vehicles with as many passengers as possible fail to do so, then there is no point in keeping them on our roads. While I commend the police in general, I will take exception to the traffic policemen. If possible we can begin afresh and take all of them away from the roads. We can begin to train new recruits.

**Mr J. O. Ogunbiyi (Ilesha Urban) :** I would like to start my speech on another aspect of the short-comings of the traffic policemen. From the provinces, one can find that there are

many check points on the way. In fact, some of them are as close as one mile apart. On these points, one finds as many as five men at times. In fact, some of them may be inspectors, and this makes one think that the police either have nothing to do or they are deliberately sitting idle. I cannot imagine what five policemen could be doing at the same time on a point.

We find that even when a motor car or a lorry is stopped on the roads, only two or three policemen come down while the others recline under a tree. Sometimes, one finds them with palm wine kegs. This is a point the Minister in charge of the police must look into.

The police have had it so good during this Session. Many Members have been getting up to praise the police and have asked the Government to do more for them, but I think they must do their best for the nation in the services they render. I cannot agree that it is not a waste of time and money for five men to stand idle waiting for vehicles especially when they are not going to do the work very well.

It is a common sight to see policemen stop vehicles, collect tolls—which is the business for which they are there—and let the vehicles go without any inspection whatsoever. I think this is worth looking into by the Minister in charge of the police.

If the police are to be effective, the Minister might wish to look into the administrative side of the police, especially the divisional set up. We find in some cases that the divisional headquarters are so far away from the places where the policemen work ; sometimes these are as far as two or three hundred miles. I have a case in mind.

In the Western Region, we have the divisional headquarters of the policemen in respect of Oshun, Ile-Ife and Ilesha Divisions at Oshogbo, and in the case of Ekiti, we have the headquarters at Akure, which also serves Ondo, Okitipupa, Owo, Ikare and so on. I think there should be a better arrangement which would promote efficiency. If we can get the headquarters for Ekiti and Ilesha at Ilesha, it will be very good. These places are so near to each other that it will be better and easier for the police to operate. I do not see any sense



[MR OGUNBIYI]

in grouping Ilesha, Oshun and Ile-Ife together when we have a place as near as twenty miles to Ibadan being part of Oshun.

We have to go round the place looking for responsible officers, and we generally do not know the right person to approach. This is another point which I think the Minister in charge of police affairs should look into, and which I think will promote efficiency if corrected.

People talk of quarters for the policemen. This is another point on which I think if I were to ask the Government to do anything for the police, I would very much stress. We find that in some towns and centres, the policemen have to rent houses as far as two or three miles away from their stations.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North) : Particularly in Owerri Division !

**Mr Ogunbiyi** : I do not know about this. I have never been there.

These policemen are not in a position to give of their best, especially since they could be needed at any time in the police station. In some cases, they do not get the facilities which other policemen in quarters get. This is a point which must be considered if we want to improve the efficiency of the policemen. The best thing is to consider first the mental attitude of the men. We can do this by considering the conditions in which they live.

In addition to that I want to talk about the appearance of the policemen.

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

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.*

**Mr J. O. Ogunbiyi** : I was talking on the appearance of the police when we suspended sitting this morning.

I am very happy to note that the Government is going to design a new uniform for the police, but I should like to appeal to the Government that the uniform should be made attractive and smart. The uniform of the police has not been appealing. Since they are officers who deal with members of the public every day, they should be given the kind of uniform that would make them identifiable and approachable.

The army, for example, has a grey-green uniform which is not attractive, but for the position they occupy and for the kind of job they do, I think that their uniform should be all right for them. In the case of the police, however, these being uniformed officers who have dealings with the members of the public—little children, young men and women, elderly men and women all over the country—the kind of uniform they should wear should be very attractive to the people.

On a more serious note, I would like to congratulate members of the police force for all that this Government has been able to do for them since these past four years in the life of this Parliament. When we started the life of this Parliament, the working conditions of the police were not very attractive ; but to-day, I think that they have gone a long way. I would say, without any fear of contradiction, that this Government has done more for the police than perhaps for any other department of the Government.

**An hon. Member** : Then the hon. Gentleman should congratulate the Government.

**Mr Ogunbiyi** : I shall congratulate the Government during the course of my speech. I shall come to that later.

This improvement has been done with the approval of the Members of this House who are the representatives of the people. Now it has been said that confidence begets confidence. I think that the police, in their turn, should justify the confidence bestowed on them by making this country a safe place for every citizen. They should know that we all, jointly and individually, are citizens of this country and are responsible for the betterment of the conditions of their service, and that they owe their good fortune to everyone, irrespective of region of origin.

They should try, at all times, to resist any attempt by any one person or group of persons to make use of them against other members of the community. They are public servants and they should behave as such.

I know the police are ordinary people like ourselves. They are mortals. Some of them can fall into temptation, but the fact remains that they should make it a point of duty and a watch-word to be servants to all and sundry.

I would like to congratulate the Government for this good fortune of the police. I would also like to congratulate the new Inspector-General of Police for his good fortune of having been promoted to this rank. I would like to advise him, at the same time, that, in the words of the Bible, "To whom much is given, much is expected." As a Nigerian, he has a great duty to maintain discipline in the police force and to see that his own men come up to expectation.

We have had occasions to complain here of the roughness of the police on certain occasions, but I hope that the criticisms which were offered on the Floor of this House would sink into their hearts so that they would take it as their duty to be polite and to realise that they are not masters but servants of the people. Sometimes, the average policeman gets the impression that, once he is in uniform, he can become a bully. When one goes to them, they should make themselves unapproachable; when one asks for an obligation, they do not feel like rendering it because they feel superior. This sort of behaviour is not expected of a policeman.

I would only hope that with the change in their conditions of service, since it may be argued that their poor conditions of service of the past may be responsible for their attitude to the public, they would turn a new leaf and serve the public as faithfully as they can.

I do not want to end on the note of criticisms only. I appreciate all that the police have been able to do, despite the failings of some of them, for the security of this country. If we can give praise to them whenever praise is due, they will know that we do notice the good things they do in and for this country. All we are asking them to do now is to improve on their past performances and give us a better service still.

I beg to support.

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South) : Mr Chairman, I am grateful for the opportunity you have given me for the first time in view of the fact that all the attempts I made to contribute to the Speech from the Throne and the Budget Speech failed.

I would like to say that any amount of money that we spend for the police would not be a loss to this country, considering the performances of the policemen both in Nigeria and overseas.

They have done a lot in tracking down criminals and people who make attempts to defraud the Government by minting a sum of £5,000,000 counterfeit currency notes. Without the efforts of the police, this crime would not have been discovered and dealt with. They are also helping very much in preventing armed robberies along our highways, thus saving the lives of many people.

I would like to say that the activities of the X-squad has not been felt in the whole country, and I would urge the Minister in charge of the police to see that the X-squad are also sent to the regions, and if possible, into the rural areas.

The traffic section of the police have done a lot, but there is one thing I want to say about the traffic police. It is not the policemen themselves who want to be corrupt but they are being encouraged to receive bribes. Those who are responsible for their corruption are, and I say this without any fear, the lorry owners—transport owners. These are the people who give money to the policemen so that the policemen may overlook the many traffic offences that they often commit, most common of which is overloading.

If these transport owners really keep to the laws and commit no offences the policemen would not go to them to collect money. But these people want to get much more money than they should by overloading their lorries and this is responsible for the loss of many lives in motor accidents. I would like to say that the Prime Minister could help a lot to prevent accidents in the country if he would appoint some special C.I.D.s, unknown to the traffic policemen, to go about and spy on these traffic policemen. By so doing a lot of the corrupt policemen would be caught.

It is a fact that we have to praise the Police for the good work they are doing but it is also a fact that we have to point out to them their weak points. When we do this it does not mean that we are against the Police. We are not at all against the Police; we are only telling the truth. We should point out their mistakes so that they may improve.

When, at times a lorry driver violates any traffic regulation, all he does is to go round and leave say about two shillings on the side of the road and the grievous offence is overlooked. The driver then drives away. One

[MR AFANIDEH]  
can always see these things happening. If the Minister of State in charge of the Police would send some C.I.D.s to investigate the activities of these traffic policemen many of them would be caught and brought to book.

There is one other thing that can help to strengthen the unity of this country. I think that policemen in different parts of the Federation should be constantly transferred to other parts of the country to serve other people in other sections of the community. In this way the people in the North will understand more of the people in the East, those in the East will understand more of the people in the West and those in the West will understand more of the people in the North so that we may all mix freely as members of the same community.

We have seen what the policemen in the Federal territory are doing, we have seen how brilliantly they are performing their duties, but it will help a great deal if the activities of the Police in the Regions could be improved. Our policemen in Lagos are doing good work but may I point out that allowing a policeman to remain too long in any particular place does more harm than good. I hope the Minister of State for Police Affairs will take note of the idea of transferring our policemen to different places all over the country so that we may be able to live together as brothers.

It is a fact that policemen are very competent in their work, but I would like to suggest that whenever they go to court to prosecute in certain cases State Counsel should be engaged to prosecute important cases of the Police. I am suggesting this because some lawyers will only ask the policeman some tricky questions to get the policeman confused and unable to continue with his case.

It is a great fortune for Nigeria to have a security branch of the Nigeria Police Force. We cannot easily realise the good work the security branch of the Police Force is doing. But an example of the good work of our security police was what happened last year when somebody came into Nigeria from Germany, went round the whole country, made some sketches of some parts of Nigeria and was about to go back when our security policemen caught him. Nobody knew whether he was an agent of another country which might be

interested in the security of this country ; but it stands on record that but for the activities of our security policemen the man would have gone back to where he came from without anybody knowing anything. The man was jailed and I am not sure whether he has completed his jail term. This is a good example of the work that policemen can do to rescue this country from destruction.

Some people have advocated that policemen with the G.C.E. should be given some special consideration. I am not against this idea but I want to sound a note of warning. If we have to judge the ability of our policemen by the possession of the G.C.E. we will be disappointed because it is a fact that most of these people who claim to have the G.C.E. do not earn it on their own merit or through their own hard work or because they are qualified to have that qualification. Most of them engage other people to sit for the examinations for them and the Ministry of Education is not unaware of this.

**The Minister of Education** (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku) : The wild allegation made by the hon. Gentleman is not true. Before anybody sits for an examination a passport picture is submitted by the candidate ever before the candidate enters the examination room. So it is not possible that one who has not submitted his or her passport picture will be allowed to sit in any examination room.

The invigilators are very vigilant about that and there has never been any occasion, at least none has been brought to my attention, where a candidate who has not submitted his or her passport picture has been allowed to sit for an examination. So the allegation is not true at all.

**Mr Afanideh** : I am happy to hear the explanation by the Minister of Education, but I still cannot be completely ruled out. Whatever be the case I am happy that passport photographs are to be submitted before candidates take their examinations. I think this in future will check this evil.

Lastly, I want to bring to the notice of the Minister of State in charge of the Police that the Nwaigwe Police Charge Office is collapsing. We would like the name of that place to be changed. It must be changed because nobody knows about that man after whom the place is at present named. He is not the owner of the

land. We want the name of that station to be changed and named after the place in which the Police Station is situated. We want it to be known as Odoro Ikot Police Station and not Nwaigwe Police Station. This is the demand of the people. There was a petition sent to this effect for an immediate implementation of this request. If the hon. Minister so desires he can send somebody to go and see and report back to him under what condition this station is. It is in a dilapidated condition.

I also wish that the condition of the police there be improved because from the station to the nearest Police Station is very distant. From this station to Aba Police Station is about eleven miles and to Ikot Ekpene is about fifteen miles. It is essential that the Government should provide the police there with transport so that they may be able to track down criminals some of whom have to run from Ikot Ekpene side to Aba, especially those who smuggle goods.

**An hon. Member :** Smugglers from the hon. Gentleman's place ?

**Mr Afanideh :** It is not from my place. Last year I threw a challenge on the Floor of this House when some hon. Members accused the people of old Calabar Province of being smugglers. What actually happened was that an Onitsha lorry was accosted as a result of which many lives were lost. I then challenged that if the lorry did not belong to an Onitsha man and did not bear an Onitsha number, I would vacate my seat in this House. But there was nobody who could contest my challenge. It is therefore wrong for people to come here and tell us we are smugglers. We are no smugglers. We know those who are smuggling—those who want to be rich overnight, those who want to own many cars and lorries all in one day.

I do not want to take more of the time of this House and I support the Schedule to the Appropriation Bill.

**Minister of State (Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju) :** I seize this opportunity to thank Members on all sides of the House for the good words they have spoken and the good comments they have passed on the Nigeria Police Force. I do not blame those few Members who spoke ill of certain sections of the Police because we do not expect a hundred per cent praise for the Police Force.

I should like to remind Members of this House that it is sometimes difficult for all sections of the Force to please all classes of people at the same time, because even bad people would like to have their own ways. I say this with particular reference to the section of the Force that deals with the day to day affairs of the public.

I would like to clear certain points raised by Members on various sections of the Police Force. The Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*), who is regarded as the best friend of the Police, raised a point on promotion in the Police Force. Promotion in the Police Force is based solely on merit, good performance and good conduct. Also, before a policeman expects promotion, he must be very outstanding.

The second point is on the essential qualification for Cadet Inspectors-in-Training which is credit in English, Mathematics and two other subjects. In order to foster efficiency in the section of superior police establishment, I think these essential subjects must be maintained.

With reference to the question of insuring the lives of police officers, this is well covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act, and there is no need for separate insurance for police officers' lives.

The Member for Akwanga (*M. Yakubu Allanana*) made a point about barracks accommodation for the Police. This is being well handled by the Federal Government. It is well-known that all superior police officers are provided with Government quarters. The lower ranked constables are provided with free quarters but, where this is not possible, allowance is payable in lieu of quarters.

It is envisaged in the Six-Year Development Programme to provide more police quarters and barracks.

I agree with the Member for Okitipupa South (*Oba Oladiran*) that both the Nigeria Police and Local Government Police or N.A. Police are jointly rendering good services to the country under the Inspector-General of Police. The Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) spoke on pay rise for police officers. It is true, and I do agree, that our police officers deserve more pay. So far

[MR OLAREWAJU]  
as the Prime Minister has already made a statement on this issue, I am sure the future of our police officers is rosy and I am sure they will soon receive more pay.

I wish to comment on the alleged corruption in the Police Force, especially in the Traffic Division. I disagree with the Members who say that traffic policemen are corrupt. I quite disagree.

**Several hon. Members :** No !

**Mr Olarewaju :** Traffic policemen are not corrupt as suggested by the Members. Further, it is suggested that traffic policemen should be cleared away from the roads because of this alleged corruption and bribery. I think this will be detrimental to the users of our roads if we have no traffic policemen on the roads.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** On a point of order, Is the Minister saying that all those reported arrests by the X-Squad are not true ?

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) :** On a point of information, it is not all those who were arrested that were convicted.

**Mr Olarewaju :** What I am saying is that bribery and corruption is a disease which the Federal Government is trying to stamp out and it will be very wrong to single out the Police Force in this case. We appreciate the fact that bribery and corruption should be cleared in the country and that we should start with the Police. That is the reason why we have the X-Squad.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East) :** On a point of order, while we do not want to single out the Police Force, is the Minister aware that the C.I.D. Police has been broken down and nothing gets discovered unless one goes into secret bargaining with the C.I.D. Police.

**Mr Olarewaju :** I do not know that. The Member for Ilesha Urban (*Mr Ogunbiyi*) alleged that policemen drink palm wine at check points on the road. I do not think this is true because I do not think the hon. Gentleman took the trouble to find out what he saw the policemen drinking. It might probably be water.

**Mr J. O. Ogunbiyi :** On a point of order, if the Minister will care to come along with

me I will show him that it is palm wine they are drinking and not water.

**Mr Olarewaju :** I do not see anything wrong in a man or an officer who has worked very hard having a little refreshment. There are several Members in this House who, after making a little speech, go to the Bar to refresh themselves with drinks.

**M. Baba Shehu Ibrahim (Borsari Damaturu) :** Mr Chairman, it appears to me that the Minister is trying to encourage the police officers to become drunkards. How can he, in his official capacity and as a member of a respectable and honourable Cabinet, come here to tell us that police officers are justified to drink palm wine while on duty, and to say that he accepts the practice in principle ? Is that how we are going to be governed ?

**Mr Olarewaju :** What I really said is that the hon. Member who alleged seeing police officers drinking palm wine on checking points was not sure of what he said, because he did not take the trouble to examine what the police officers were drinking.

**Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West) :** What I want to correct the Minister about is that the thing is not palm wine. It is water kept there. As soon as they get two shillings they go to that place to drop them. Any time one goes on the road, if one gathers the kegs of palm wine, one will see that it is water with money inside.

**Mr Olarewaju :** I must say that not only palm wine is white. Milk is also white. Therefore, there is nothing wrong for someone who has laboured for a long time to refresh himself.

**W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** On a point of order, let the Minister tell us whether it is lawful for a policeman in uniform and on duty to drink palm-wine. It is an offence in England not only for policemen to drink while in uniform but for anybody to give them wine to drink. If the Minister will come to this House and boldly say that policemen should "refresh" themselves during office hours, let him tell us.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** On a point of order, the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs's*) reference to England where it is very cold and people cannot just drink water anyhow, is not appropriate. We are in a tropical climate and hon.

House of Representatives Debates

1489

[Appropriation (1964-65)

2 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1490

Members know that after working for some-time, there is the urge to drink water. But the hon. Member keeps on referring to "drinking" which of course could mean water, milk, *Apetesi* or *Burukutu*.

**Mr Olarewaju :** Hon. Members allegation will be fully investigated. The Government is on the way to providing new uniforms for the police. This will no doubt give them a better look. I am very happy for the nice things the hon. Member has said about our new Inspector-General of Police, Mr Edet, who incidentally is the first Nigerian to hold such a post. He is above suspicion and there is no doubt about his ability to hold this post.

The Member for Ikot Ekpene South (*Mr M. B. Afanideh*) wanted the X-Squad to be sent to rural areas. Already they are there and the Federal Government will increase their number in order to cover more areas within the Federation. With these remarks I move, That the Question be now put.

**Several hon. Members :** No, no.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : On a point of order, the hon. Minister's Motion was not seconded and therefore . . . . .

**The Chairman :** You do not know your Standing Orders. I just want to warn the House that there are seven more Heads to be discussed. If Members choose a guillotine, then I will allow you to spend the whole time on this Head.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** It was indicated in the speech by the President that the police establishment would be increased because of the increase in the population of the Republic.

When the Minister of State for Police was reading his ministerial statement a few days ago, he gave as one of his reasons for the projected increase in the establishment the need to give necessary protection to Ministers.

**Mr Olarewaju :** On a point of order, I said "necessary protection to Ministers and all the public in Nigeria".

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** Whether or not the Minister said "necessary protection to Ministers and all public men or the general

public in Nigeria", does not affect my argument. My point is this : I observe that there is an increase of nearly 3,000 in the establishment. Well, there is nothing bad in that, but it is surprising that Ministers should be given special mention on the ministerial statement.

I think it is the general belief in this country that the police are doing very good work and that our Ministers are free citizens of this country.

The Prime Minister is an example of a man in a very high post, the head of Government, who can walk, if he chooses to, on his feet from his house to Idunmota or to Iddo. If he did, all he would receive along the streets will be ovation, except of course, that some people of my own party may shout Awo ! That is all.

I understand that the same thing happens in the Eastern Region : the Premier occasionally takes delight in going into the shops to buy things.

The same thing also happens in the North. When the Sardauna of Sokoto, Premier of Northern Region came down to Lagos for a short constitutional conference last year there was not a police officer around him. He was moving about freely.

**The Minister of Communications** (Chief Olu Akinfosile) : On a point of order, if the hon. Member had given this undertaking four years ago not to molest politicians in another place we would not have all this.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** I always concern myself with the present. I was saying that except in the Western Region where we see Premiers, Deputy Premiers, Vice Premiers and Assistant Deputy Premiers, go about with lorry loads of armed police—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs** (M. Aliyu Zungun) : On a point of order, the hon. Member who is now one of the leaders of the Action Group is appealing to big men to go about in order to see the people but may I say—

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** If the Parliamentary Secretary does not understand the English language, he should please sit down.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Mr S. A. Lana) : On a point of information, I would like to take this

[MR LANA]

opportunity to point out that when the Prime Minister goes about—

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : I do not need any information. I am not yielding.

**The Chairman** : Order. The Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) should please continue.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : I was merely saying that the only exception in the country is in the Western Region where the Premiers and Ministers are imposed on the people and we should not forget the advice—

**Mr Lana** : On a point of order, the Ministers and Members of the Western House of Assembly are elected members. They were never imposed on the people.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : We have just heard during the reading of the 3 o'clock news, that the security measure adopted in the Western House of Assembly to-day was unprecedented. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (*Mr Lana*) is not up-to-date.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments** (M. Abubakar Isandu) : On a point of order, whenever the Prime Minister goes to Ikeja, your party men generally call him *Awo* or *Ole*.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : That has never happened on any occasion.

**The Chairman** : Order. We should rather do business or wind up.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : I have seen the Prime Minister pass on several occasions and people give him ovation. It happens everyday. At times, some Ministers may be in his retinue who are not liked by the people and people may shout *ole* on them ; that happens occasionally.

I am appealing to the Prime Minister to bring home to the people the words of the Prime Minister of Great Britain who on the Floor of this House only about two weeks ago advised that we should reject all forces or any force except the force of example. We should reject any power except the power of persuasion, we should reject any Government except Government by the consent of the people and we should reject any relationship except the relationship of the good neighbour.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East) : I would like to raise only one point and that point is in regard to the security and the intelligence services of this country. I do not think that enough has been said about this very important branch of our security.

In my view we have not on the Floor of this honourable House been adequately informed about our security or intelligence services. It may be that if we are told, it no longer becomes a security, but I think we ought to be given the confidence that our security services are adequate.

Above all, I am yet to be informed that our security and intelligence services have been fully Nigerianised. I do not see how we can rely on expatriate intelligence men and expatriate security men. No doubt, they have helped us in the past and we are grateful, but the time has come when this important arm of our security services should be fully Nigerianised.

Furthermore, we need now to induce more of our products from the Universities at home and abroad into the intelligence services of our country. We should not have unintelligent men conducting intelligence services. Intelligence services mean the use of intelligence, the use of the brain to organise the security of the state.

Half witted men should not be put in charge of our security services. I do hope that the Prime Minister will look into the full Nigerianisation of our security and intelligence services.

I am reliably informed that our border areas around Niger and Chad are not fully guarded and, therefore, we have had occasions of complaints about incursions and excursions inside and outside the country.

I know the towns around our border very well. I would suggest that we have at these borders wireless installations. These should be installed along the borders. Once we plant them in line with the Minister of Finance's men, the smugglers, they will be able to control that—

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of information, how can the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) from Abriba say that the smugglers are my men ?

House of Representatives Debates

1493

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

2 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1494

**Professor Ezera** : I did not say that they are Chief Okotie-Eboh's men. In any case, I come from Ohafia in Bende not from Abriba.

The installation of V.H.F. stations along the border will not only help to lessen the violation of our laws at the borders, it will also help to enhance the promotion of those silent men. The policemen at the borders are suffering in silence, they are doing all the work but they are forgotten. I therefore suggest that we look into the affairs—

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh** (Ishan West) : On a point of order, may I appeal to the Chairman that before calling the Front Benchers who make long speeches, the Back Benchers should be allowed to speak first.

**The Chairman** : When there are very many people wishing to speak from various sides of the House perhaps it is always wiser to select the spokesmen to speak on their behalf because the time will not be sufficient for everybody to speak.

**Professor Ezera** : I want to say that I agree with all those who have praised the Police especially on our security and I will appeal to the Government to encourage these people particularly the silent workers, the wireless men at the borders who serve this country.

Their plight should be looked into, they should no longer be forgotten and more V.H.F. installations should be put along the borders to protect this country from all sorts of incursions.

**Mr V. T. Shisha** (Iharev Masev) : Much has been said about the Police and I just have a few points to make.

May I first of all congratulate the Northern Government for the quick step it took in informing the Federal Government about the riots in Tiv Division. I should also thank the Federal Government for restoring peace and order in Tiv Division.

The Police should also be praised and encouraged for the excellent work they are doing. It is very unfortunate that some of them lost their lives during the riots and I am sure that the Federal Government would be kind and sympathetic enough to give their dependants adequate compensation because these people

left their families without thinking that they would lose their lives. The Government should do something to help the dependants.

The Federal Government should, firstly, also think of establishing a Police Station at Gboko so that if any disturbances occurred it could be nipped in the bud. If the Police Station is established there will be no trouble during the coming Federal elections.

Secondly, I would like to say that much attention should be paid to this area because it appears that a lot of arms and ammunition are being spread here and all over Nigeria. The Minister of State for Police (*Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju*) should instruct his policemen to look out carefully for these things and get them.

Much has been said about corruption in the Police Force and I think this is mostly found among traffic policemen. Although the Minister says he is not aware of it, it is a common practice throughout the whole Federation.

When we talk about road accidents, we should remember that most of these accidents are not caused by the bad conditions of our roads but by the carelessness of unqualified drivers. Testing officers cause some of these accidents. They pass lorry drivers because these drivers have bribed them.

Before a lorry driver is able to get his licence, he must first of all consult the testing officer at night and once he has consulted the testing officer, the test will be easily gone through. The Minister concerned should do something about this.

**Mr Olarewaju** : The allegation made by the hon. Member is correct. The essential thing to do before somebody puts his vehicle on test is to consult the testing officer but I do not think that they do this at night as alleged by the hon. Member.

**Mr Shisha** : This has been going on and I think it is because the testing officers do not look for efficiency but for what they can get for themselves. They do this because of their poor conditions of service. If the conditions of service of the Police are improved, I am quite sure there will be no question of testing officers passing drivers at night before these drivers put their hands on the steering at all. If these points are taken seriously, the number of road accidents will be greatly reduced.



[MR SHISHA]

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

*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.*

*£6,234,060 for Head 23—Police—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

HEAD 24—MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

*Question proposed, That £844,830 for Head 24—Ministry of Commerce and Industry—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (Ibarapa): The Minister of Commerce and Industry (*Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima*) is trying very much to see that this country develops industrially as it has developed in other lines.

I want to make a point about the goods made in Nigeria and our industries. I was shocked the other day when I went to the textile factory at Ikeja to notice that on not a single cloth produced in this factory could be seen the words "made in Nigeria". What could be found on the materials is P.Z. Nigeria, P.Z. this or P.Z. that. The name "Nigeria" does not appear on any material at all.

May I, therefore, appeal to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to see to it that materials made in Nigeria bear the words "made in Nigeria" on them. We should not be ashamed of our production no matter how inferior there may be. In fact, I do not think our productions are inferior.

We produce kettle and so many other things and the name Nigeria does not appear on any of them. I am proud of the kind of baft produced in Kaduna and on which is printed "Kaduna". In fact, the name of the baft is Kaduna. This is an indirect way of saying that it is made in Nigeria.

We should have "made in Nigeria" printed on all our materials because that is the only way in which we can project Nigeria to the rest of the world. If we produce good materials, people in other parts of Africa and other parts of the world will buy them. Our name is now so important in the whole of Africa that we should be proud to have "Nigeria" printed in everything we produce.

We should even put "assembled in Nigeria" on the cars and bicycles assembled here since we cannot put "made in Nigeria" on them. I sincerely appeal to the Minister to make sure that any material produced in Nigeria has "made in Nigeria" on it.

I think that the Minister of Commerce and Industry will make sure that more avenues of trade with other parts of Africa are investigated. Some of the local materials we produce could be exported. A simple example is that of melon seed. I was shocked at getting to Accra to see that people in Accra take melon seed.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : Who sent you there ?

**Mr Gbolagunte** : I went there on my own. I have sufficient money to take me there.

These people use melon seed and they do not have enough of it, whereas in my constituency, we produce more melon seeds than we can eat. If the Minister can co-operate, we can export melon seeds to Accra for the people there to be able to enjoy the extra production from Nigeria.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments** (Mr Akubakar Isandu) : On a point of order, the hon. Member is making us believe that he was sent to take money to Mr Ikoku.

**Mr Gbolagunte** : The hon. Gentleman's information is not correct. For his information, I do not know Mr Ikoku personally but I know that he is a very great man in my country.

**M. Baba Shehu Ibrahim** (Borsari Damaturu) : It appears to me that the Member for Ibarapa (*Mr Gbolagunte*) is a stooge of President Nkrumah. We Nigerians believe in one Nigeria.

**The Chairman** : It is out of order to drag the name of the President or the Head of State of a friendly country in the mud.

**Mr Gbolagunte** : Thank you, Sir, for your protection. I want to say also that the brewing of liquor from guinea corn should be intensified. I was told the other time that researches are being made in this direction. I feel that researches on these local materials cannot be completed in the research factories in Lagos. The researches should be made on

the spot. If researchers could come to my area where this local drink is brewed, I am quite sure that they would find native experience to guide them in their researches.

Guinea corn drink is brewed not only in my area but also in the North. I do not drink it but there are people who like this drink and by brewing it we shall be able to add more to the economy of this country.

One other point I want to make is that the Government should help us in the preservation of our foods. In saying this, I have in mind yam. A lot of yam is being produced in the Eastern Region and also in my area but unfortunately, we cannot preserve it. If the Government can help us with the preservation of some of our food crops, we can export them to other parts of the world.

People in Kenya and other parts of Africa need our food. If researches on preservation are intensified and concluded, we shall have sufficient to export to other parts of the world and this will boost our economy.

**M. Maina Waziri** (Potiskum) : In contributing to this debate, I want to congratulate the Minister of Commerce and Industry on the very excellent speech he delivered the other day in Geneva. I take this opportunity to call on the Minister to see to it that something is done to help the indigenous traders.

Let us now consider the textile trade in Nigeria. All the expatriate firms are trading at the expense of indigenous traders. The reason why our people in the trade are suffering is because all the factories in the country do not give them favourable conditions. For example, if one buys a textile which is worth about £100, all that one can get as profit on that textile is about twenty-five shillings. But if an expatriate firm, say the U.A.C. (if my information is correct), it will realise not less than £10 or £15 on that £100 worth of textile.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I am sure the information is absolutely wrong. It depends on the quantity one buys.

**M. Maina Waziri** : If the Minister goes deep into the business he will find that my information is correct.

For example, if one is an indigenous trader and he wants to buy bafts from an indigenous factory, he cannot get the bafts delivered to him at his shop at less than nineteen shillings. But if an expatriate firm is buying the same baft, it can get it delivered at its shop at Adamawa or somewhere at seventeen shillings, and the baft will be sold at twenty shillings per piece.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : The Member for Potiskum (*M. Maina Waziri*) is speaking from experience.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : The man is a civil servant ; how can he speak from experience ? Is he a baft trader ?

**M. Maina Waziri** : No, I am not a baft trader, but I am protecting the interests of the baft traders in my own constituency. I am not speaking out of personal experience. I am speaking with authority. I will be very pleased if the Minister can try and see that—

**M. Baba Shehu Ibrahim** (Borsari Damaturu) : On a point of order, I have worked in both John Holts and U.A.C. ; I have worked in London and Kano, and I have worked in Potiskum. The information of the Member for Potiskum (*M. Maina Waziri*) is correct, to the best of my knowledge. At least what he said happened during the time I was there.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : On a point of order, I am sure that the barmen at the refectory have been very generous this afternoon.

**M. Maina Waziri** : There are rumours all over Nigeria of how these foreign firms transfer their assets out of the country. It seems to me that the Federal Government is not vigilant enough, because all the money these expatriate firms are extracting from Nigeria do not appear in correspondence, they do it by telephone conversations and nobody can find it written anywhere. They only send their credit sheets to Nigeria from their Headquarters, and the banks here conspire with them to send the money out of Nigeria.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**M. Albatan Yerima Balla** (Adamawa North West) : First of all, I want to speak on the international industrial development in Nigeria. It will be better if the Government can establish industries in the urban areas

[M. BALLA]

than only in places like Lagos, Port Harcourt, Kano and so on. We are all here representing the interests of the people who elected us into this House, and a majority of the Members of this House come from rural areas. Therefore the Federal Government should, in co-operation with the Regional Governments, establish cottage industries in all the rural areas.

I come again to international Trade Delegations. We have passed a number of Bills in this House for the signing of Trade Agreements with other countries of the world. As I said in my last speech, we are now independent, politically, but we want to be economically independent. And economic independence will not come in two or three years; it will come gradually. But the first thing to do is that African countries should not take part in the cold war between the Soviet Union and the U.S.A. There should be no discrimination in our trading with all the countries in the world. We want Nigeria to have free trading with all countries.

As I have already said, our trade delegation in 1962 toured parts of Western and Eastern Europe. We have sent our trade mission to the United States. But what about the Federal Republic of Germany? The British people buy machines from Germany and they sell them to us in Nigeria. We have already sent our trade missions to China, Japan and some other parts of South East Asia. If African countries try to discriminate against any foreign country, we shall only be deceiving ourselves. We knew nothing about democracy — we have only been taught by the British people. We do not know anything about communism. We are only looking forward to our own development and freedom from foreign domination.

We are happy to know that our trade missions have visited so many places. We have received some aids from America, Western Germany and from the British people who are our ex-masters. We should also give *visas* freely to trade missions coming to Nigeria. Nigeria should have free trade with all countries without any discrimination. There are people who want to come to Nigeria to trade but who stay for as long as three months in Ghana waiting for Nigerian *visas*. I can say this because I was in Ghana in 1962 and I met West Germans there who had waited three months

in Ghana for Nigerian *visas*. Since the country is free we cannot afford to accept any dictation from any foreign power. If we accept any dictation from anywhere, we are no longer independent.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. D. Odeunmi** (Egba North): In contributing very briefly to the debate on this Head, I would like to say something about the Tourist Association. It is an industry in a way because it brings in money. I observe that about £7,500 has been spent or contributed in this industry by the Federal Government. This is highly welcome. But we would like to see that the Association is given sufficient publicity, in the first place, so that more and more of our people will know about the existence of this Tourist Association and patronise it.

In the second place, we can see that the expatriates have different types of associations or organisations doing some publicity or advertisement. Much money is derived from this. Our Government should give this sufficient publicity and encourage more of our indigenous people to engage in this sort of industry.

It is a welcome news from the Minister of Health that drugs are being manufactured at Yaba. I wonder where we get most of the raw materials used in the manufacture of these drugs? Do we get most of them from Nigeria or are most of them imported? If most of them are imported and it is only a question of mixing them, we want our Government to encourage more the production of drugs from our local materials.

I remember that a couple of years ago, on the Floor of this House, I gave an experience I had from the bark of a tree. I had the opportunity of chipping out just a little bit of it with my teeth and the whole of my mouth and jaw became numbed for hours. I could even prick my mouth with the pin without feeling it. It was very encouraging that a month later, a section of the Forest Research Department sent a delegation to me and I gave them the name of this herb. I did not only give them the name of the bark of the tree, but also gave them an example. I told them where to get a great quantity of it. I wonder

what has become of this herb. That bark of the tree can easily be used for anaesthetics. We have lots of local herbs which can be used for producing wonderful drugs.

Our cement factories in Nigeria are receiving much praise and patronage. But it appears that a few expatriates remaining in our country have a sort of consultation with the importers of foreign cement. There is nothing bad in having consultation, but not with the view of lowering the quantity of our production. There is no lowering of the quality but the lowering of the quantity of our production. People who have first-hand experience gave this information that the quantity produced locally is always determined as a result of consultations with foreign importers. I would like the Government to look into this and see what it can do to boost up our local production and reduce the imported ones.

One step has been taken to increase the import duty on cement imported into the country. But simultaneously there is an increase in the price of the ones produced locally. The objective is defeated if the imported one is increased in price and the locally produced ones too are increased in price. The objective is defeated. I think the price of the locally produced cement should be kept as constant as ever and as much as possible lower, so that there will be more of our local production on the market.

We would all love to see certain commodities that are of great need produced more and more in Nigeria—clocks and watches, for example. I do not think there is any Member on the Floor of this House without a wrist watch. Everywhere in the country you get hundreds, thousands and millions of our people using wrist watches. This is the type of commodity which will certainly help to increase our financial resources.

Our textile industry too should be stepped up. While on this point I should say that if Nigeria has an average population of 50 million people, or call it what ever figure you want, but for easy calculation I call it 50 million, and everyone of us, male and female, old and young, is assigned with about five yards of cloth to use every year, that will be 250 million yards of cloth. If most of this stuff is produced in Nigeria one can imagine how much increase we shall have to our financial resources.

Other things which appear very simple or rather not very important will produce a lot of money. Take the ball pen, for instance, like the one I am having, and imagine the great number of ball pens imported into Nigeria. There is nothing preventing us from making the ball pen. A ball pen industry will fetch us money and will help us to stem our economy. In the first place it will increase the wealth of the nation. In the second place it will reduce unemployment.

There should be more of plastic commodities. These days there is the use of plastic in making any material and there is hardly any home where you cannot see a commodity or material made of plastic. We should have a plastic industry. It will help in producing more wealth.

We cannot have good commerce and industry carried on in the country without good roads. We certainly need good roads. During Question time, during the Debate on the Appropriation Bill and during the Debate on the President's Address there were mentioned on the Floor of this House the very awkward and most disgraceful condition of the Lafenwa bridge. I would wish that the Minister in charge of roads could pass over the bridge at the time the rains fall. The immaculate dress which he often puts on would completely be covered up and soaked in dirt. He has made promises that he would see to this, but he has never done it. It was Taylor Woodrow who did the work. I think this is the time he should get in touch with Taylor Woodrow to put right what was badly done. There is no sufficient drainage there. In order to increase the wealth of the nation through commerce and industry, we need good roads.

I would like to point out, in conclusion, the need for more industries, diesel oil can be manufactured in Nigeria. Gas factory can be set up in Nigeria as well as coal tar. All these are the by-products of coal and these industries can be set up in Nigeria to stem up our economy.

I beg to support.

**Alhaji Daura** (Daura East) : I rise to support the expenditure under this Head, and in doing so I have got only a few remarks to make. I have observed that the Government is not doing much to encourage cottage industry.

[ALHAJI DAURA]

It is by encouraging such industries that the people in rural areas can be made happier and more prosperous. I have noticed also that some of our very old cottage industries should be improved upon. These industries are not paying very much to those who operate them, and I think it is a pity, with the development of this country, that such industries should be left to die away. These are industries like weaving and dyeing. They have existed for hundreds of years and we do not want such industries to die away.

Other industries which can be established and which will be useful to the public are those for making agricultural implements for the farmers in the rural areas. The Government can help by giving loans to people who are interested in such industries so that the general public may benefit from them.

I beg to support.

*The Minister of Finance rose—*

**Several hon. Members :** No ! No ! It is too early.

**Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt) :** On a point of order, this is a very important Head and most of us would like to contribute to the debate on it. Therefore it is too early for the hon. Leader of the House to wind up the debate, because after his speech the Question will be put.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** My hon. Friend, I am sure, knows that we are in Committee and that if I speak, no Member is prevented from speaking again. I would, therefore, like to reply on behalf of my Colleague, the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry, under this Head. I want to express my appreciation to hon. Members who have paid glowing tributes to the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry for his stewardship in this Ministry, which is a very difficult Ministry indeed. And above all, I would like to associate myself with all the praises that have been showered on the hon. Minister for the wonderful and constructive speech which he made recently in Geneva.

I think we are all proud of the hon. Minister because he has spoken the untrammelled mind of the generality of the people in this country, and I think that obviously the speech must have gone down well except for the stubborn-

ness of the powers that be in the commercial and economic fields in other places. We hope, however, that there will be a change of heart later, and that the developing countries will be given the necessary encouragement in trade and industry to enable us develop our own resources for the benefit of our own people and for the benefit of others and to prevent us from continuing to subsidise the rising living standards of the people of the developed countries. That is the main trouble with our economy.

As I said in my speech in another place, we do not want to kill our own trade and industry, to kill the initiative of our own people and then tomorrow somebody comes along to say, "We will give you some grants and loans". We want to develop our own trade and industry so that we can give loans to other people. That is the point that the Minister of Commerce and Industry made in Geneva. I believe that we in Nigeria would like to see the prices of our groundnuts, rubber, cocoa and timber rise.

**An hon. Member :** And palm produce too.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Oh yes, and palm produce too.

**An hon Member :** And *akpeteshi* too.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** No. That is only good for the laboratory.

I think that is what we want to see. For a long time there has not been any appreciable rise in the price of our cash crops. On the contrary, it has been degenerating from stage to stage. Our farmers will not be happy unless they can sell their produce and buy some new things for themselves and for members of their families and be able to put something by for the rainy day.

So we support the Minister. As a matter of fact, I had to send a cablegram to him to congratulate him on the wonderful speech he made.

**An hon. Member :** On behalf of this House ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** On my own behalf. I did not have the mandate of this House. But if the House wishes me to do so, with the permission of the Prime Minister and the Speaker, I will do so tomorrow. I understand that he will be returning perhaps tomorrow.

And when in his usual way he moves gallantly into this House, I hope he will receive the cheers of all sides of this House. We know the Minister has infused the spirit of the great Bornu sons into his Ministry.

As I said, it will be difficult for us to believe our eyes when we tour the industrial areas of Ikeja, Apapa and the Regions. We must admit that we have made very great strides indeed, as my hon. Friend, the Member for Ibarapa (*Mr Gbolagunte*) pointed out. I am sure that when we get to the factories we will not believe that most of the textiles we see in the streets are produced in Kaduna, Ikeja and Aba. This is a wonderful thing to come and see.

I would therefore suggest that when hon. Members come here next, we should arrange to go on two or three days holidays and get officials of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to take hon. Members on short tours of Ikeja and Apapa industrial areas. After that, I am sure that we will agree, and feel satisfied that the Minister of Commerce and Industry has been doing a wonderful job for this country.

I share the views of my hon. Friend, the Member for Ibarapa (*Mr Gbolagunte*) about the absence of the "made in Nigeria" stamp on our products. We must surely ask my Colleague to look into this seriously. But as I said earlier on, when I mentioned this matter last week, it is not the fault of the factories. It is the mentality of the people of this country. If we stamp our products, for instance, a shirting "made in Nigeria" they will not buy it. This is true.

**Alhaji Aminu Kano** (Kano East): On a point of information, the Minister may be right but not in all cases. For example, the Kano Trading Company makes calico and shirting, and in Kaduna we have three industries that make shirting. They are sold like hot cakes.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: My hon. Friend may be correct but my information is that the factories themselves would like very much to mark "Made in Nigeria" but that the market would not be quite responsive to the putting of the trade mark, "Made in Nigeria".

**Several hon. Members**: It would.

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi** (Asaba West): On a point of information, what the Minister is saying may be correct but I do not believe so. I can say that Nigerians buy more *Star Beer* than any other beer in this country because it is made in Nigeria, and the *Golden Guinea* that is made in the Eastern Region is sold more than any other.

**Several hon. Members**: That is because it is cheaper.

**Mr Eboigbodi**: We buy many other goods made in Nigeria also.

**Mr J. D. Odeunmi** (Egba North): On a point of information, I think the Minister is correct in a way but I feel that our people ought to be educated as much as possible. This reminds me of a time in England when most of the commodities from Japan imported into England were stamped "Made in England". Things made locally ought to be our pride to purchase.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: I am grateful to the Members for the various views they have expressed and I am sure my hon. Friend and Colleague will look into these matters, but the point is that whether what I said is correct or not, I still feel that we in this House owe it as a duty to propagate to our people the necessity for appreciating what is produced in Nigeria and preferring it to any other thing. That is my view.

My hon. Friend from Agbor said that they drink a lot of *Star Beer* in Agbor. It is so because the water there is not good. (*Laughter*).

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): On a point of information, the *Star Beer* is brewed at Aba in the Eastern Region and the *Golden Guinea* is brewed at Umuahia in the Eastern Region. The *Golden Guinea* in the workshops sells at about 2s-5d whereas the *Star Beer* is selling at about 2s-9d. As the price of the *Golden Guinea* which is made nearly at the same place is low, the people are going all out for it. They patronise it. If anything is made in this country and the price is low, people will buy it, but when the price is so high that we cannot afford to buy it, we refuse to buy it.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: Mr Chairman, I wish that my hon. Friend the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) were talking about school

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

method. He is dabbling into something about which he knows little.

**Chief Abii** : I know much about it.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : The fact of it is this. It is the secret of trade that if you open a new factory and you want to popularise your product, you must reduce the price, otherwise nobody will buy it. For about a year when the *Star Beer* was first produced in Nigeria, it was very cheap ; it was sold at 1s-5d, but as people began to like *Star Beer*, it is a matter of taste, the producers started to put up the price. That is economic.

This other beer that the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) talked about is a very good beer but he should not deceive himself by thinking that those people are going to leave the price at that level for ever. Let him watch and see. I agree with him that when the prices are competitive and the companies do not suffer any loss, they should encourage our people to patronise the products made in Nigeria.

The Member for Ibarapa (*Mr Gbolagunte*) spoke about research. He said that we must go and make research on melon in his constituency and that there was no use putting up a research laboratory in Lagos expecting it to do research there. In other words, the people who want to go to the moon and make research about how to get to the moon must first get to the moon and unless they are in the moon, they will not be able to make research there. I think this is a very awkward way of arguing any case.

**Mr Gbolagunte** : On a point of order, the Minister is misquoting me. I said that this research cannot be concluded in Lagos. They can only be concluded after they have gone to the spot to make some experiment there.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I am saying that it is unnecessary to go to the spot. The research can be done anywhere. They can even make research on melon or melon seed in England or anywhere. One does not need to put up the research laboratory in the field where they grow melon before they can produce it. But I agree with him that it is essential that we should make more research into our products.

The Member for Egba North (*Mr Odebunmi*) said, about the herbs that we have, that some of our people in the olden days made use of these herbs and that our doctors should go into it, instead of importing half-finished products from overseas. I am very happy that the hon. Member—I like him very much because he is a Baptist like me—is still alive. He was challenging death by chewing something that would make his mouth numb for about three days. Let him try it again and he will see what will happen to him (*Laughter*).

I would like to say that it is not correct that the local production of cement is limited. Both the *Ewekoro* and *Nkalagu* cement factories have doubled their production but the increase in price of local cement is as a result of the excise duty which we imposed.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : What about your cement factory ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I have no cement factory.

**Mr Briggs** : That is not correct, you have one.

**An hon. Member** : Assuming that the Minister has, what about it then ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I wonder. If I have, does that stop the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) from carrying on with his stevedoring business. He is either a lawyer or a Stevedoring clerk.

**Mr Briggs** : But I am not a stevedoring clerk.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : You are. You went to oust your brother there.

**The Chairman** : I do not think the Minister should heed these interruptions.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : What we did was this : The cement factories in Nigeria did not live up to the accepted principle under which they were given pioneer certificates and protection. The purpose of pioneer certificate and duty relief is to enable the factory to go on tax holiday and therefore recoup the money invested within a reasonable period of time, and at the same time enable the investors to put their products on the market at a cheaper price than the imported product.

The Nkalagu Cement Factory which was the first to be established recouped its capital, started making profits and paid dividends to the shareholders but at the same time it was selling cement at the same price as imported cement. Would you say then that it is right for us to protect them at the expense of the ordinary man in the street? That is why we feel that at the stage they have reached, making profits, they must contribute something to the coffers of the country.

**Mr Briggs :** On a point of order, the Minister of Finance is making the same point that he made during the debate on the rise in excise duty of local materials. The question still remains unanswered. I asked the Minister of Finance a question at that time about the protection he was going to give to the consumer.

If the Minister raised import duty and also excise duty, both the importers and the manufacturers would have to shift the higher duty on the consumer. What then is the protection the Minister is giving to the consumer?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** The protection that we are giving to the consumer is the difference between the import duty and the excise duty; after all, excise duty is always lower.

**Mr J. O. Olaore (Oshun North East) :** On a point of information, the present custom duty on cement is fifty shillings per ton. Before, it was thirty shillings and twenty shillings has been added to it. Besides the twenty shillings, excise duty is fifteen shillings which is only a difference of five shillings.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** The duty on locally produced cement is nine pence on a bag and that on imported cement is two shillings and sixpence, as the Member for Oshun North East (*Mr Olaore*) has rightly said.

With all the concessions given to these people, they should be able to sell their own cement cheaper and if they do not, Members will find that within the process of time, they will not be able to sell their own cement.

The reason is that if the people who are importing their cement from overseas are selling cheaper cement here, naturally nobody will buy the locally produced cement and these

people would be forced by economic circumstances to reduce their prices. There is no hard and fast rule about that.

I would like the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) to tell this House where in any developing country something hard and fast has been done other than a control. I have refused that. I am sure I speak for my Colleague, the Minister of Commerce and Industry that if we were to control the importation of cement more rigidly to-day, the same thing would happen. The ordinary man that we want to protect would suffer because there would be no cement.

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) :** I do not see eye to eye with the Minister of Finance as regards the explanation he has been giving to this House. If the imported cement costs twelve shillings and sixpence, why should the cement manufactured here cost twelve shillings and sixpence as well? How are we going to enjoy our locally made goods? The ordinary man in the street who can only afford to buy cement for ten shillings is now forced to buy cement for twelve shillings and sixpence. How does he enjoy the cement made in this country?

The Minister of Finance was once a businessman and I am a businessman. I will not agree with the Minister of Finance that imported cement should be sold for twelve shillings and sixpence and the locally made cement should also be sold for twelve shillings and sixpence just because the people who have invested money in the business want to make profit. We want the price of locally made cement to be reduced.

Before I sit down I have to tell the House that the only N.C.N.C. member with pregnancy in the Western Region miscarried this morning when the Governor of Western Region was delivering his Speech from the Throne. The man concerned is Mr Akinyemi.

**The Chairman :** That is not relevant.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I do not know of any miscarriage of the N.C.N.C. anywhere. But I would like those who rejoice now to take heed, lest they fall as quickly as possible. The N.C.N.C. will never fail anywhere in this country. I want the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) to be sure of that.



**Mr Odulana** (Ijebu South) : On a point of order, peace, harmony and tranquillity have come to stay in Western Region and we of the N.N.D.P. will continue to rejoice forever whether the Minister of Finance likes it or not.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** : The point I want to make is that this country is symbolised by the Prime Minister of this Federation who is noted for his uprightness and democracy. *Jeun, jeun* politics as symbolised by the N.N.D.P will never last in this country.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : May I beg hon. Members to please allow me to make my points and stop drawing red herrings about *Ijebu Parapo* and all sorts of things.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : On a point of order, there is no such thing as *Ijebu Parapo* Ijebus are on this side and most of them who have been misled are on the other side. The Minister of Finance is an Ijebu !

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : Whatever happens, wherever the Ijebus are, you can be sure of one thing and that is they will always make counterfeit money.

**The Chairman** : Order, That is a "counterfeit" statement.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : Quite frankly what the hon. Members said about cement is exactly what I am saying and that is—we want to see to it that the price of locally produced cement is cheaper than that of the imported cement. I would like to mention that a letter has already been written to all the cement companies imploring them to peg the price of cement.

Members must have seen the advertisement of *Nigercem* in the newspapers. They are bearing ten shillings out of the fifteen shillings excise duty imposed. That is a reduction which means that instead of putting the fifteen shillings imposed to the consumer, they are putting only five shillings. This makes the price better. What I am saying is that control is not the answer.

**Mr Briggs** On a point of order, what the Minister is saying is that instead of adding an additional fifteen shillings, the *Nigercem* is now adding only five shillings. But There is still an increase of five shillings in the price. *Nigercem* could have borne the whole fifteen

shillings, in order to make the price remain as it was. But the Minister is saying that the effect of the new price is that it is not going to be increased by fifteen shillings but it is going to be increased by five shillings, in which case there is still an increase. What we do not want is an increase at all.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : The Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) must appreciate that this is not an exercise that can be carried out in one single operation. What I am saying is that while we increase by fifteen shillings per ton—which is nine pence a bag for the locally produced cement—the increase on imported cement is about twice that amount.

**Mr Odulana** : On a point of order, the last report of the Nkalagu Cement Factory reveals that they made one hundred and fifty per cent profit. Why should they make such a profit ? Instead of sharing a dividend of about thirty per cent, they shared only ten per cent, and they explained that they wanted to replace some plant and machinery. This means that they are collecting our money to buy machines that have been regarded as scraps from England to increase their production.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : Hon. Members should appreciate the reason given by the cement factory which is that they want to expand so that they can give more employment to people. Members should note also that the standard of living of our workers is rising and they have overhead charges which they have to pay for. They do not produce the machines here. If we increase wages must they not increase the wages of their employees there ? If they increase the wages of their employees there, build quarters for them, give them medical facilities, give them leave and so on which our people are asking for, naturally they must have some minimum increase—

**Mr Briggs** : On a point of order, is the Minister now giving them extra five shillings with which to pay for all that and asking the consumers to subsidise them to the tune of five shillings ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : You do not build houses, you live on the water and you are saying that you are a consumer of cement.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): On a point of order, I consider that this point is very necessary for the Leader of this Parliament to understand. Nobody makes a gain until he has recouped his capital. All that the Minister of Finance has enumerated here goes to the cost of production. We're telling the Minister of Finance that after recouping their capital, they revealed that they had a dividend of one hundred and fifty per cent.

If we raised the duty of imported cement, the price of the locally manufactured cement would go up again. So, the people of this country are paying tax indirectly without knowing that they are paying extraordinarily. We are asking the Minister of Finance to control the price of cement and that Government should sell its shares to the public.

**Mr Odulana**: On a point of order, I have another clue. Members should inform the Minister of Finance to protect the Flour Mills of Nigeria at Apapa for one reason or the other. The Government must protect the interest of Nigerians who are buying this flour. We know the price of the imported flour. The selling price of the flour at Apapa is £2-14s. If you are a registered customer who can buy tons of flour, you will get a rebate. If you import flour like Pilsbury, Rosemary Crown or Best Flour, from the United States, the duty you are going to pay will be over two pounds, which means that if the flour costs one pound five shillings then you have to pay about three pounds five shillings and we are selling our flour at Apapa at two pounds fourteen shillings. So, if we go to Apapa to buy flour at the rate of two pounds fourteen shillings, we shall be gaining almost about one pound as compared with imported flour. Why is it that the position of cement is different from flour?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: We must make progress. Members will have their own time to make their points later. The points that I am making are very clear to me. The fact is that I do not know about the one hundred and fifty per cent net profit. If the people made a profit of one hundred and fifty per cent, they could pay it away by way of tax or by way of dividend.

All I am saying is that the aim of the Government is to see to it that we pay good price that will enable the industries to live as well. We

must not kill the industries. All the expenditure of the industry must be taken into consideration.

I want Members to appreciate the fact that the factories themselves are not selling agents. The cement that is received from Nkalagu anywhere in the country is not being sold to the consumer by the factory itself. The factory has its agents and the agents must make their own profits. No factory in the world can open its door for day-to-day sales to individuals.

That brings me to the point about the price of textiles. If you buy large quantity in any factory, naturally, the price must be less than that paid by the person who buys one. If you are buying a large quantity, the factory gives you a bigger rebate and then you make more profit. But that does not mean that the profit is going to the expatriate companies alone.

The Member for Egba North (*Mr Odebunmi*) spoke about tourism. I agree with him completely that it is a good source of attracting foreign exchange. I can assure the hon. Member that this is being encouraged by the Government. The Government is thinking of establishing a tourist organisation as soon as possible.

He also said that cottage industries must be encouraged. We are already encouraging them but the technical know-how is still absent. If we could impart a lot of the knowledge to our people in the villages, they would be able to associate themselves with larger factories by putting finishing touches to some of the articles we produce in Nigeria.

The Member for Adamawa North West (*M. Yerima Balla*) spoke about free trade. There is free trade in Nigeria. We trade with all the countries of the world. We do not trade with one particular section.

He also spoke about *visa*. This question of *visa* is the business of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It has nothing to do with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

I think that the hon. Member will agree with me that the question of remittances of profits *et cetera*, by banks in the sterling area is a convention which we, in the sterling area, cannot break. But I can assure him that our

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

Exchange Control Regulations are quite strict on this issue. We do not want people to do secret banking or to remit their money out of this country by the back door.

**Mr Briggs** : With the Minister of Finance's knowledge.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I do not know if it is with the knowledge and consent of the Member for Degema. Definitely, it is not by my knowledge and consent.

I think these are the main points that have been made by the Members. I can assure them that any other points which they would make to develop our commerce and industry in this country will be well taken and examined by my Colleague when he returns. I can assure Members that, in his usual manner, he will take care of the points made.

**Mr I. O. Chikelu** (Udi Central) : I rise to support the Estimate under this Head. In doing so, I have a few points to make. The first one is to ask the Ministry to take full responsibility for the answer given by the Minister of Mines and Power to my question here last week about the deposits of iron discovered in the West of Enugu and handed over to the Ministry for tapping and for use.

**An hon. Member** : It is not the business of the Minister of Mines and Power.

**Mr Chikelu** : I know what I am talking about. I said that the Minister of Mines and Power told me that it is no longer his Ministry that looks after the implementation of setting up an industry. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and I want to remind the Minister in charge of this Ministry about it. So, I am not talking nonsense.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry must bear in mind that in setting up this industry, he would be redeeming this Government from a promise made to rehabilitate miners who lost their jobs when the price of coal fell in the world market.

If he takes up this matter seriously, it would be the joy of all retrenched miners at Enugu to be re-engaged, so that they will be in a position to carry on with the maintenance of their families, and their children in institutions of learning.

I want to refer the Chairman to the answer given to Question 333 which states that it is only the Ministry of External Affairs that has been completely Nigerianised. Other Ministries should follow suit and make sure that in the near future all posts are fully Nigerianised. This, of course, should not be done at the expense of efficiency, for in this Ministry we have a lot to learn from those who know better.

In manufacture, for example, we cannot afford to go by trial and error method. We have only to learn from those who know better, so that we will not waste our money after buying costly machines for producing materials for local consumption.

The last point I would like to make is that we cannot depend on experiments made in and around Lagos alone. We expect the officers of the Ministry to travel out to rural constituencies and see what could be done to help the various people in the rural areas. What our people require in order to reduce the high rates of unemployment is engagement in self-employment, and I think the cheapest source of self-employment is trading. Some people do not know what to do to help themselves in trading. The Trade Fair organised here was very useful to big traders. Small traders in rural areas who could not afford to come to Lagos would like smaller fairs to be held in the Regions. The Ministry could organise, say, two or three small fairs in Northern Nigeria and one or two fairs in Eastern, Western and Mid-Western Nigeria, so that local traders could come nearer and see from what place they could order articles to sell to people around them. If that happens, most of the people who have small capital with which to start trading would do so rather than going to offices to ask for jobs.

**Mr B. A. Ajayi** (Ekiti South East) : The Minister of Commerce and Industry should be congratulated, even though his Colleague the Minister of Finance has replied on his behalf.

There is no doubt that a great progress has been made under this Ministry. Some sections of this particular Ministry are more or less blind alleys—the staff just have to work without any hope of promotion. Some of them had to act for good seven years without being made the substantive holders of such posts. Thank goodness a revolution has taken place within

the industrial division, and it is now possible for members of the staff to be promoted. Industrial Officers are now converted to Assistant Secretaries on Scale A. I think that will encourage Secretaries in that particular category.

Unfortunately, there has been some wastage. Some members of the staff had moved out from this particular division. I know one at least who had a specialist training, but because of frustration he had to move out to another Government where he is now earning double what he was being paid. Now that the Government has tried to establish a Paper Industry, I just do not see how it will be able to lose the services of such a man. It will mean either getting an expatriate or waiting until another person has been trained.

Another point that I have to make is in respect of the various sections under this Head. Some sections are encouraging whilst some cannot just make workers feel really secure. Under the Establishment and the Library sections, for example, the highest post carries a salary of £1,860. Under the Weights and Measures section, the highest post, that of a Superintendent of Weights and Measures is in group 8—a salary of £1,860—and under Federal Boatyard Opobo, the highest post carries a salary of £1,580.

In my opinion, these sections are meant for technicians and specialists. I think technicians take precedence over administrators. If we really want first-rate technicians, we should at least put them on equal footing with administrators. It seems preposterous for a technician to earn less than an administrator. I think our salary structure here seems to be defective. Something should be done to encourage specialists and technicians if really we need them.

The other point that I would like to mention is in respect of research. It is true a lot has been done by way of establishing factories at the big cities in Nigeria. I do not agree altogether with the Minister of Finance when he said whilst speaking on behalf of the Minister of Commerce and Industry, that we do not need to bring our research to the source of raw material. At the moment, the tendency is for us to be capitalistic in our approach to research. Take, for example, the question of *garri*

manufacture. We tried to build up a very big machinery which will produce *garri* on a very large scale, whereas the weight of *garri* sold in the market is much under twenty-five *per cent* of the weight of raw *garri* from the farm. If we build big machines, it follows that *garri* must have to be conveyed to the big machines where the manufacture will have to take place and the economy thus derived will be lost in course of transport. I should have thought that our unit of operation or unit of research should be a little lower. We do not need gigantic machinery or factories, but we need things which the common farmer will use to grate *garri* and reduce the weight. Unless we do that, it will only mean that a class of capitalists are causing growers of cassava to waste their money by transporting *garri* to the huge machines, and then the economy will be lost and the purpose will be defeated.

The same thing is true of fish curing machine. It is so expensive; it is so huge that an ordinary man cannot afford the cost. What we need is a simple machine which the fisherman will be able to use to cure his fish without smoke and thus be able to sell it to others. To undertake research at the level we are now doing at the moment is not at all socialistic, rather it is capitalistic. It does not solve our problem. Well, a lot has been said about the need to refine our local materials, and I am glad the Minister of Finance has mentioned the fact that we should try as much as possible to improve our local resources. I think that emphasis should be placed more on that, and this trouble for canning industry and so on should be looked into.

We produce a lot of food in this country, and price fluctuates heavily. During the harvest season we buy about five yams for about 2s 6d, but those yams cannot be preserved for more than about six months, and by, say, March or April yams which were bought for 2s 6d five months earlier would be sold for about 5s 6d or 6s 6d. In fact, there is scarcity of food because yams would not last. I think we should try as much as possible to research along that line whereby we can preserve our food, especially by establishing canning industries all over the country. The food preserved in this way would spread out all over the year without wastage, and the price fluctuation would be avoided.

[MR AJAYI]

It is unfortunate really if we do not patronise "Made in Nigeria" goods. The Minister's argument is a little vicious, and it is a situation that we have to view seriously. If one buys something made in Nigeria and one finds it not to be of the same quality as an imported article, despite the fact that one buys it at a dearer price, naturally one would change over to what is not made in Nigeria which will be more durable. But all the same, it is proper for us to try as much as possible to encourage our infant industries by going for things made in Nigeria, provided they are not unnecessarily expensive.

That is why the Minister should change his heart about this question of imposition of excise duties. We understand his argument, but all the same we cannot just afford to pay more on something which we can get at a cheaper rate somewhere else. So, the idea that we do not patronise goods made in Nigeria is not altogether correct, and I think he will be in a position to help us so that we can be encouraged to buy things made in Nigeria.

A point has been made about cottage industry. Most of the industries set up are, in Lagos, Ikeja, Ibadan, Port Harcourt, or, perhaps, at times in Kano. I think the Government should try as much as possible to speed up the spread of electricity all over this country. If we have power supply I think, naturally, cottage industries will spring up. A barber would be able to harness his tool with electricity. A baker would be able to use an electric oven and produce bread on a larger scale. A carpenter would be able to harness his turntable with electricity, and that would increase productivity.

At the moment, I do not think the rate at which we industrialise and the manner in which we industrialise are really helpful to the small villages. The rush at the moment is to the city whilst the village is being deserted.

I beg to support.

**Alhaji Damale Kaita (Kaura)** : This is a very important Head, and before I make my observation—

**The Chairman** : Order. Will the Member for Kaura (*Alhaji Damale Kaita*) please speak more loudly.

**Alhaji Damale Kaita** : I am very pleased to congratulate the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima, on his outstanding performances at the World Trade Conference at Geneva. The Minister's statement on the exploitation of the developing countries by the developed countries of the world is very significant.

Nigeria's achievements in the field of industries since Independence are very remarkable, but there is still room for improvement. Most of the industries have been sited around Lagos, Enugu, Port Harcourt, Aba, and so on and so forth. Nigeria is one, and every part of it should be treated equally.

Industries have not been established in Northern Nigeria as in other parts of Nigeria. Northern Nigeria is the producer of cotton, groundnuts, hides and skins, and so on. It qualifies very well for industrialisation, if not more than any other part of Nigeria.

Katsina Province in Northern Nigeria, with a very large population, has no industry at all. Katsina produces more than 50 per cent of Nigeria's cotton. In groundnut production Katsina holds a third place in Nigeria, and it is also rich in hides and skins. With all these potentialities the Federal Government has not yet considered it fit to set up an industry in Katsina Province.

With your permission, Mr Chairman, may I ask the Minister of Commerce and Industry to consult the Northern Region Government in order to consider setting up a factory for making livestock feeding materials in Katsina Province. An ideal place for such a factory is Funtua. It is a rail point, and it has got electricity supply. In addition, that place will shortly have pipe borne water supply. The products for processing these materials are already in the place.

I am very pleased to note that in 1962 eighty-one private companies were registered in Nigeria, but I am very disappointed to observe that only one is of Northern origin, and that is the Northern Nigerian Trading Association, Jos, with a nominal capital of £10,000.

The incorporation of private companies is an important factor in the development of a country's economy. By forming trading companies Nigerian businessmen would be able

*House of Representatives Debates*

1521

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

2 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1522

to take over the business formerly done by foreign firms. The Northern Nigerian traders are not aware of the facilities provided by the Federal Government in this regard, and, with your permission, Sir, I would like to suggest that the Federal Minister of Commerce and Industry should tour the Northern Region and acquaint the people there with the duties of his Ministry. Besides this, the Minister should meet the Native Authorities as soon as it is convenient to him on this important matter. I know the Minister is a very busy man, but his visit to the Northern Region is very important.

The hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry is one of the Government agents responsible for solving unemployment in this country. Unemployment is a very serious problem in Nigeria to-day, and, therefore, the Minister, in co-operation with his Colleagues, should take steps to find solution for the present problem of unemployment. In the North, where farming season does not last more than four or six months, during the dry season millions of people go about without any work to do.

From the "People's Budget" of 1958 to the "National Budget" of 1964, £347,639,440 were voted on the Floor of this honourable House for the services of Nigeria. The main objective of this exercise is to raise the standard of living of the people. It is a pity that a government of the people by the people and for the people has been spending the people's money without improving the standard of living of the majority of the people living in the rural areas.

In a developing country like Nigeria, the development of industry should go hand in hand with that of agriculture. The majority of the people of Nigeria are peasant farmers. It is my opinion that the development of cottage industries throughout Nigeria will create jobs for many people in the country. So, I ask that the Minister of Commerce and Industry should explore the possibility of establishing cottage industries throughout the country.

I am taking this opportunity to appeal to both the Ministers of Economic Development and Commerce and Industry to come together to the aid of peasant farmers in the country, particularly Northern Nigerian farmers who

have not had the opportunity of enjoying the activities of the Federal Government. The peasant farmers of the North should be encouraged to form co-operative societies in order that the primary production of the North could be developed.

In order to help the development of the production of the Regions, I suggest that the Federal Government should increase the £25 million assistance to the Regions for the field projects. Several hon. Members have already spoken at length in favour of agricultural developments. I would like to associate myself with these people in appealing to the Federal Government to help farmers, as farming is the mainstay of our economy.

There is another very important matter to which I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Industry and that is about the position of Kano. This important city was the centre of commerce and industry before the British people came to Nigeria, and during the regime of the British this city of Kano was developed in all respects so much so that it became one of the most important commercial centres in West Africa. But it is sad to note that immediately after Independence, this important commercial centre started to lose its position. And one of the ways in which it has been downgraded was the deliberate attempt of reducing the status of the Kano Airport. I am therefore appealing to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to restore the status of Kano as an important commercial centre and to continue to improve it until it compares favourably with any commercial centre in the world.

Before I take my seat, I would like to pay my tribute to the Weights and Measures Division of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Its work in the North in seeing to it that the produce buying scales are standardised is commendable. Farmers are well protected from the exploitation of the produce buyers. But I want to say that the numerical strength of these Inspectors is insufficient to cope with the volume of their work as produce buyers suffer inconveniences in having to wait for a long time for scales to be tested before they can buy. I therefore wish to appeal to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to look into this matter without delay.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North) : I want to make a very brief contribution to this important Head. Both sides of the House have paid tribute to the Minister of Commerce and Industry for his wonderful speech at Geneva recently—his attempt to get the world to revise their old policy of buying raw materials from the developing countries only to make double profit on them. Both sides of the House have paid tribute to the Minister for that, but I want to say that when we talk of unemployment we must not forget that lack of industries in the country is responsible for this problem. If one looks at the statement made here on the 1st of April about siting industries in which even the Government has participation—the Nigerian Cement Co. Limited, the Nigerian Dunlop Co. Limited; the Nigerian Sugar Company Limited; the Flour Mill of Nigeria Limited, and so on and so forth—there are about sixteen of them, one will agree with me that Government's shares in these ventures are too small.

I also want to remind hon. Members that it is no use coming here every year complaining about the traditional neglect by this Government of the people in the rural areas. We are deadly against this neglect. From time to time we have been appealing on the Floor of this House that this Government should move out from the big cities and go to the villages and help them by establishing industries in the rural areas. It is no use thinking in terms of big cities alone. I have warned against the dangers : if war broke out all these industries could be wiped out in a twinkling of an eye. In other countries of the world which I have visited, I have never seen a country which puts all its eggs in a basket. We need industries in the rural areas. We need them in the North, in the West, in the East and in the Mid-West, so that there will be less exodus of youths to the big cities. The mass exodus of youths from the rural areas to the big cities is because we have decided to concentrate so much in the big cities.

We always shout at the top of our voices about farming, farming. Who will go to the farms when we are making only the big cities more attractive for life to the neglect of the rural areas? This is a serious point. And I want to say that I hate this idea of partial participation. The excuse of the Government

is that there is no money. I quite agree we cannot dictate to foreign investors where they should site their industries, because they want to be in Lagos because of the Island Club and the Federal Palace Hotel; they want to be in Port Harcourt because of the Tropicana Night Club, there is a swimming pool there; they want to go to Kaduna because of the big new hotel. All these are flimsy excuses.

What the Government should do is to provide sufficient funds for industrial development. If we want to invite a foreigner to this country with his money and technical know-how, we have to concede to him the right to site his industry anywhere he likes. But if Government can provide money from the loans we get from abroad, from the World Bank and elsewhere, there is no reason why we should not be able to provide about £10m., £20m or even £30 million for industrial development alone in the rural areas. Then Government would be able to decide whether this industry should be sited at Owerri, whether that industry should be sited at Sapele, Ikeduru-Mbaitoli and whether another one should go to Kano. This is exactly what we want.

If we have got our money, we can get experts from other parts of the world and we can site our industries anywhere we like.

We are tired of the complaint that we cannot dictate to the investor where to site his industry. This does not interest anybody; it does not interest the country; it does not interest this House at all. And if this Government is amenable to public opinion, as I am sure it is, it should do something about the rural areas.

The other point is this. As I said, industry is connected with this particular Ministry. We have talked and talked about the threat of unemployment to this nation. I do not like to be repeating this thing every year. I have always said that no matter how good this Government can be, unemployment constitutes the greatest threat to them. And something has to be done about it.

The other day when I was moving my Motion on the Six-Year Development Plan I gave the number we expect to be in the labour market between now and the expiry period of the Development Plan. Now, what are we honestly doing about it? We have got our universities; they are turning out graduates.

*House of Representatives Debates*

1525

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

2 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1526

What are we going to do about them. We are talking of agriculture. The Federal Government has got no farm settlement; they have no experimental farm; there is no demonstration farm for people to learn something. We merely talk and talk about these things. What is the solution to the problem? The solution to it is this. More industries should be established to absorb these people. And in order to establish more industries, Government should take the initiative and provide necessary funds. This is what we are saying.

And this brings me to my own particular area—Owerri Division. The case of Owerri Division is older than this Parliament. I have made a point that when Shell-BP came to us in 1937 we gave them land and everything. They built up a good camp there. And regrettably after twenty-three years they left us for Port Harcourt. And ever since then we have been appealing to the Government because the case of Owerri is a special and a peculiar one. This is a case of a group of people who are used to a big industry employing thousands of people and business was booming. There were houses and everything. But just suddenly they went away from us.

**Several Members :** Why?

**Mr Mbah :** They left for reasons best known to them. They left perhaps for economic reasons. In any case, they have their reasons for leaving us. But whatever their reasons may be we should not forget that Shell-BP is operating on a fifty-fifty basis with the Federal Government. The royalty paid by the Shell-BP is, of course, being shared between the Federal Government and the Regional Governments. So it is our responsibility.

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) :** On a point of information, the people of Owerri were demanding too much annual rent from Shell-BP. That might be the reason why they left Owerri.

**Mr Mbah :** I know that the professional interjector is not serious.

What we are saying is this. Here is a special case of a group of people who are used to a big industry; who have given their land; their goodwill and everything for Shell-BP to try, for Shell-BP to be able to succeed

to-day and pay the Government the huge sums of money they are paying by way of royalty. And we were left. When they left us there was a big vacuum. Trade was at a stand-still; many buildings collapsed. And now all Members from Owerri are appealing to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to give us a heavy industry to replace Shell-BP which left us quite unexpectedly.

It is unfortunate that in the five years of this Parliament all our appeals have fallen on deaf ear. The Government is either not interested in the people of Owerri and have therefore refused to give them industries or they have some other reason.

When I raised this question the other day the Minister said that two things must be taken into account; one is manpower resources. Then he raised the question of political convenience, and of course, what the Regional Government feels about it.

If it comes to manpower, Owerri is the most populous Division in Eastern Nigeria, if not in the whole country. If it comes to political convenience, I can assure the Government that Owerri is never known for subversion against the Government or anyone. We are law abiding people. And we have always supported our own party which is in power in the East. In fact we have satisfied all the requirements. Yet we are denied amenities. Therefore, I am appealing to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to give Owerri a heavy industry which will absorb our teeming population in thousands. I think this is really a very serious point.

Then I want to make a few points on the oil industry. The oil industry has impoverished the land in the East. Yet the land owners there receive a negligible compensation for surface right and this compensation is determined by the Federal Government. I think we should now borrow a leaf from other parts of the world, say from the United States. In the United States the owner of the land owns the surface and anything down to the bottom of the earth. The result is that he owns the oil; he owns everything. But in Nigeria, under the old Colonial Government, everything under the earth belongs to the Crown. And this Federal Government has inherited that exploitation from the British.



[MR MBAH]

Now, my final word is that the land owners in the East are complaining very much. The Government have destroyed their crops; impoverished their land, and used their absolute power in deciding what they should be paid. And yet the land owners have no share out of the royalty or from the proceeds of the oil industry. This is a matter which is causing serious agitation in the East and I wish the Government could do something about that.

I beg to support.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central) : I think it is no use, as the last speaker has said, for us to come always to the Floor of this House to speak of industrialisation and forget rural areas. This is of great concern to us. Because, as the last speaker has said, we always come to the Floor of this House to appeal to the Government to establish as many industries as possible in the rural areas. But unfortunately the Government does not take care of our appeals.

Listening carefully to the Minister of Finance when he spoke this morning, I came to a conclusion that there must be an effective co-ordination between the Regional Governments and the Federal Government as far as the industrialisation of this country is concerned. If it is our Constitution that hinders this I think that the Constitution should be amended. I think that every Member of this Parliament appeals to this Government always to industrialise his constituency and I think that everyone is right in doing so. If the handicap arises from our Constitution, I think the Constitution should be amended.

Last year, I gave some examples of various places where industries could be established and this year too, due to the statement made by the Minister of Finance, I feel that I should repeat it. In the course of his speech, the Minister made us to understand that the cement industry in this country is growing very very rapidly. Unfortunately, however, due to the rise in the cost of imported cement which at the time is the same as the one manufactured locally, a sort of competition comes in. For that reason, I feel that a concerted effort should be made by the Regional Governments in conjunction with the Federal Government so that a target can be set for the manufacture of cement in this country. I see no reason why

this should not happen because there are very many places in the rural areas where limestone can be found.

In the course of the Minister's speech, he also mentioned some factories which are coming up in Ikeja, Kaduna and other places where shirting materials are made. One can see that with the huge quantity of cotton grown in the North, I think we can easily attract investors to this country with the help of this Government as well as the Regional Governments to establish more factories in this country to manufacture the things most needed in this nation.

We have been accusing the Government of only establishing industries in the urban areas. I see no reason why such places as Funtua, as has been mentioned here several times where there is everything necessary for the establishment of factories, should not be considered. For instance, in Funtua there is electricity supply, there is going to be water supply very soon, cotton is produced in large quantities in that area. I see no reason why Funtua should not be considered a good site for the establishment of a textile industry.

There is also a place which I mentioned last year here. That place is Gombe in Bauchi Province. There is an enormous quantity of cotton grown in Gombe. Also, there is electricity supply, there is water supply, the railway is there, in fact, there is practically nothing whatsoever which cannot be found there. I see no reason why Gombe should not be considered as well.

I should like to come back to the cement industry. Unfortunately, I only have to base my examples in the North because I only know the Northern Region better than the other places. However, any example I may give can be applicable to other Regions as well. I know that in the North, in Kabba Province, limestone is available in large quantities and I see no reason why that area should not be considered for the establishment of a cement factory.

If the Minister of Mines and Power is here, he will confirm that in a certain report issued by his Ministry limestone is mentioned as being available in the very place which I mentioned in Bauchi Province. There is no reason whatsoever why a cement factory should

House of Representatives Debates

1529

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

2 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1530

not be considered for that place, that is Gombe. I make mention of these places for two reasons. The first is that if these industries are established in these places, no one will grudge it them for the reason that they are being established in the urban areas. For these places are not urban areas. Again, if such factories are established in these places, an attempt will then be made to manufacture cement, clothing and other materials which we need very much in this country.

I have to say again that if there is any Constitutional handicap, the Constitution should be revised. Every Member of this House has at one time or the other appealed to the Government to consider the establishment of industries, and if there is any impediment due to our Constitution, I think the Constitution should be revised. We should also do away with the policy of *what we have we hold* because the establishment of industries is not only the concern of the Regional Governments. It is also the concern of the Federal Government because the Federal Government can attract investors into the country as well as the Regional Governments.

I beg to support.

**Alhaji Aminu Kano** (Kano East): I just want to congratulate the Minister of Commerce and Industry for the successful attempt made to establish the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company to handle the sale of our commodities. When two years ago I complained that the sales station was not in Nigeria, the Minister noted the point and said that he was considering the matter. Now, we have the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company and truly we are going to make our name far more heard than we were able to do when the office in London was the sales agent for Nigerian produce.

Secondly, I would like to congratulate the Minister for the trade agreements signed last year between Nigeria and some communist countries, such as Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland and so on. This is an encouraging move by the Ministry to extend our trade benefits not only to the so-called Western democracies, but also to the socialist democracies in order to be able to expand our market.

May I say also that the Minister's speech last week in Geneva when addressing the world trade conference was a great encouragement to

us because of the part Nigeria has played in the preparation for and the eventual participation in that conference. May I suggest that we must note the importance of certain areas of the world in terms of expanding our trade. There is no reason why we should not open trade offices in places like Ottawa, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, and so on.

I know, of course, that already we are opening a trade office in Japan and that we have had one office in New York, but I feel that we should not lose any chance in terms of opening trade offices and missions the world over in order to expand our trade.

I would like to say also that the Minister's move to do something about the trade imbalance between Nigeria and Japan, to bridge the gap, is creditable because for a very long time now we have been complaining that trade between Nigeria and Japan is lop-sided. We import Japanese goods worth millions of pounds and yet the Japanese people refuse to buy anything from us except to give us some kind of quota or just to take a token measure of trade.

Now that the Ministry is serious to bridge this imbalance it is very creditable. We know, for example, that the American Government is subsidising the Japanese people in the cost of soya beans; that is why the government of Japan cannot buy our groundnuts. I must say again that the fact that the Ministry has realised this important factor is very creditable.

And lastly, I must make a new appeal. I made this point last week and I would like to repeat it to-day. We must have a new kind of survey on the question of locating our industries in this country. What is the purpose of locating a textile industry at Ikeja, for instance, while the cotton is from another part of the country. What is the logic in it; it is senseless. If you are telling us that because of the climate here the cotton does not burst out, I will tell you the Kano Trading Industry which has been making textiles for the last twenty years has been in Kano all these years, and the climate over there has not affected the cotton. What is the sense in growing cotton in Bornu or Katsina and bringing all the cotton to Ikeja for the textile mill.

What is the sense in locating a leather shoe factory elsewhere while we have all the required raw materials coming from Sokoto and Bornu.

[ALHAJI AMINU KANO]

Why do we have this sort of competition between the Regions; it is simply a waste of our money and mere dissipation of efforts.

I think the Minister should take this point into account; and there is no doubt that with a new planning and new surveying we can improve this situation. We can then concentrate all industries where the raw materials are found.

I beg to support.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): I have very little to contribute—

**Several hon. Members** : *Shakey, Shakey, Alao!*

**Mr Odulana** : I do hope these Members who call me *Shakey, Shakey and Alao* have elders in their homes. I am not *Alao*, it is my driver who is *Alao*. They should be very careful otherwise I will tell them how their grandfathers lived in the past.

**The Chairman** : If the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) has nothing to say I will call on another Member to speak.

**Mr Odulana** : I am sorry, Mr Chairman, I just wanted to talk to them in a way they deserved.

The time is very limited as everyone wants to go away and come back at 9 p.m. but I would like to make one or two observations to serve as advise to the Minister of Commerce and Industry. However, before that I want to join other Members who have congratulated the Minister for the able way he has projected the personality of Nigeria in Geneva as he has always done in the past. This is a fine attempt on his part and I hope other Ministers will take a cue from his actions.

The question we must ask ourselves is how we can industrialise this country, and what arrangement the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has in this regard. Are we going to continue as the person who goes to the market to buy rams and goats and bring them home and then slaughter them ourselves with all the dangers and difficulties entailed by so doing? A man who is not married, that is to say one who is a bachelor, goes to the market and buys a ram; how is he going to get all the things ready for his soup.

A butcher goes to the market with his rams, slaughters them and displays them for people to buy. If you want the leg, you go there for it; if you want the head, you go there for it as well—

**Mr D. D. U. Okay** (Port Harcourt): On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman speaking is talking like a butcher. I do not know what he is talking about; we are discussing Head 24—Commerce and Industry.

**Mr Odulana** : Unfortunately, the Member for Port Harcourt (*Mr Okay*) is not the type of gentleman I would have liked to insult because he is known as the Lord Mayor of Port Harcourt.

What I am saying is that a butcher when he goes to the market and displays his slaughtered ram on his stalls, it is easy for anyone to go there and buy whatever part he wants. All our raw materials in this country are sold to foreigners in the way a man goes to the market to buy a ram, slaughters it, and shares it with his household alone. But if our raw materials are processed in this country as the other countries do theirs it will bring in more job opportunities to many of our school leavers.

We hear talk of large quantities of groundnuts from the North; cotton from the North; palm kernels and cocoa from the East and West. But we bring all these farm produce and send them abroad, and we may ask ourselves, what the overseas people do with them. They process them, extract oil or the good things in them and transform them into finished products for their own use. Why can we not do likewise, extract the oil from the groundnut and make use of the residue to manufacture many other things?

In this country, up to the present time, the Ministries of Agriculture are still importing manure from overseas; surely this could be easily got locally. We continue to ship away all our palm kernels, cocoa, groundnuts, and so on abroad. Why can we not make use of these farm produce here in this country?

I am seriously advising the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to send a delegation abroad and invite experts to Nigeria to show us how we can process our own local raw materials, without sending them abroad.

... negotiations are going on with an overseas concern. I do not know when these will be completed. This year there has been nothing done other than estimating for the payments of the workers there. That is not doing justice to the...

... only very little. It is usually very difficult to get a call through for a long time. I do not know why this should be so. It is only in the small townships that you find exceptions. Sometimes when a call is booked it does not...

*House of Representatives Debates*

1533

[Appropriation (1964-65)

2 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1534

India, for example, grows groundnuts and has never shipped them overseas; instead in India they process them, take the residue and use it for the manufacture of different things. It is only the oil that they send abroad to countries of the Eastern bloc and so forth.

The Sudanese Government, not long ago, sent people overseas to get in touch with experts who came to their country and examined what industries would best suit their country. That is why to-day in Sudan the people have now more than the number of industries they require. The West German government is aiding them and they have machinery coming from America and other parts of the world. This is what we should do in this country, if we are to be fully industrialised. This is no job for only a few individuals; the government must take the initiative and send our men abroad to get experts who are capable of telling us the right things to do. It is by so doing that we can hope to industrialise every province of this country.

I beg to support.

**Alhaji Umaru Gumel (Dutse East)** : It has always been our usual demand in this Parliament to ask for complete industrialisation of this country. Well, this is a very good thing.

**The Chairman** : It is now six o'clock, and sitting is suspended until 9 p.m.

*Sitting suspended : 6 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 9 p.m.*

**Alhaji Umaru Gumel** : As I was saying, we have been asking the Federal Government year in, year out to establish as many industries and factories as possible in the urban and rural areas of this country. But when some of these industries have been established, the products of such industries are not being patronised by us. It appears to me then that we are barking for nothing. We are the right people to show our people how to use these products. We are to set the example. I challenge any hon. Member in this House to say that he is wearing a locally made cloth. Nobody.

**Chief P. Dame-Obob (Ishan West)** : On a point of order, I am wearing a locally made cloth. The hon. Gentleman has seen me quite all right and as such cannot challenge me.

**Alhaji Gumel** : Charity begins at home. We should start using all the materials that are locally made here in Nigeria. Everybody should start using locally produced articles.

if we establish these industries, it is our duty to use their products. These industries, I am quite positive will collapse if not carefully protected by the Federal Government. I am saying this because most of these local industries require a great protection from the Federal Government.

By this protection, I mean, that the Federal Government should stop the importation of those goods that we can produce locally. That is the only effective means of protection which local industries require and not an increase of customs and excise duties. There is no protection the Government will give to local industries other than to stop the importation of rival goods. The Government should stop the importation of such goods forthwith.

Here in Nigeria, we produce rubber and it is subsequently being processed here. We have rubber factories both in the South and in the North where local shoes are being made, but still rubber shoes are being imported from overseas. It means that there is competition from outside our own home. Why not stop bringing rubber shoes into this country?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : Because we are still exporting rubber to other places.

**Alhaji Gumel** : It means we have excess rubber. That is even the more reason why we should not import any rubber-made material into Nigeria.

In the North we have goats, cows and sheep and it is from them we get all our hides and skins. These hides and skins are exported overseas where they are being processed, and in return, they are sent back to Nigeria as shoes. As a result we are made to pay customs duties twice. The Government should look into this matter. If our factories can produce sufficient shoes, there is no need importing shoes from overseas.

I see no reason why the Government should not establish a leather processing factory so that all our leathers in Nigeria will be used here in Nigeria. There is no reason why we should leave millions of people to go about jobless whilst the Government could make people work by establishing a leather factory which will absorb most of them.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : For the information of my hon. Friend—

**Alhaji Gumel** : The hon. Minister has not obtained the permission of the Chairman.

[MR ODEY]

completed is quite enough to carry this work through. Why this is not being done, however, I do not understand.

Very many people too who have been promised telephone services fail to understand why these services have not been made available to them. Now that the Minister of Communications has just come in I rather plead with him to get these services started within the next few months.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. M. Damla** (Pankshin West) : I rise to support this Head. In doing so, I beg to move that the Head be reduced by ten pounds.

Many hon. Members have been speaking on how to improve the rural areas. I register my support for what they have said because most of us are from rural areas and the Ministry of Communications is the only Ministry that has dealings with the rural areas. When the people in rural areas ask that industries be set up in their areas the Minister responsible for industries can say that because there is no electricity in the rural areas industries cannot be set up there.

But the establishment of postal agencies does not in any way require electricity. If therefore the Federal Government is prepared to help the people of this country then the Ministry of Communications has to do something for the improvement of rural areas by setting up postal agencies in such areas. We in the rural areas even find it difficult to get our letters or, more important still, emergency telegrams.

I observe that there is a lot of discrimination in the establishment of postal agencies by the Ministry of Communications. There are some areas, with the 24,000 units set as a standard for qualification for the establishment of postal agencies by the Ministry of Communications, where actually postal agencies have been set up, but there are some other areas with even more than the 24,000 units standard which are not considered for the setting up of postal agencies at all. It is now a year since the Minister of Communications said that the business unit standard has been reduced to 18,000 units but this present standard cannot help the people in rural areas. We want the unit standard to be reduced to 10,000.

Last year the Minister of Communications told me in this Parliament when I raised an oral question that the extension of telephone services from Barkin Ladi to Pankshin would be started either at the end of last year or early at the beginning of this year. But up till now, there has been no sign of it. We do not want our Ministers to come and deceive us in the Parliament. When we ask questions they just get up as soon as they can think up an answer. Some of them say that our requests are going to be carried out as soon as practicable while others even give specific time when in reality none of these requests are going to be satisfied.

I am sure that about three quarters of the Members of this House support this view of the reduction of the present unit standard set up by the Ministry of Communications to enable it establish a postal agency in an area. If we really want the unity of this country we must care for the rural areas. If one goes to some of these rural areas and asks the people whether they know what is called independence or whether they have benefited in any way from the independence of this country they are going to answer in the negative because since we achieved independence no progress programmes have been made by our Government for the improvement of rural areas.

I know of a certain area where we have over 35,000 people. The people in this area have for a long time been asking for a postal agency, but they have been refused the amenity of postal services. The area really is Gboko whose people have been applying for a postal agency but they have not even received any reply to their applications. I think this is disturbing. Our Ministers, especially the Minister of Communications, should cater for the people in rural areas.

It is now time for the Minister of Communications to make it clear to the Members of this House what he has done for his constituency. It is a shameful thing for him not to be able to tell us this. It is a thing of shame for the Minister personally.

**Mr J. A. Akor** (Ahoada North East) : In supporting this Head of Expenditure, I have few observations to make. I want to confine my observations to the post office savings transactions.

I want to say that the post office savings bank transactions are not helpful to the people of

this country. I say this with particular respect to the system of withdrawing deposits from the Post Office. The purpose of this transactions is to save and withdraw, but if one cannot withdraw one's money with ease, then the purpose of savings is defeated.

The general complaint is the difficult procedure one goes through in order to withdraw a reasonably large amount of money. The present maximum amount of £5 withdrawal on demand is insufficient. Before one withdraws a reasonable sum of money from one's savings, one has to wait for authority from Lagos. The depositor has also to pay two shillings to cover the cost of a reply-paid telegraphic application for this authority. This is an extra burden on the depositor.

In the absence of adequate commercial banking facilities especially in the rural areas, it is essential that the post office savings banks should be expanded and modified to meet the present economic demands of the nation.

In this respect, I strongly suggest that withdrawal on demand be increased from £5 to £20 and that the expenses of getting approval for the withdrawal of more money should be borne by the Government.

I would like to seize this opportunity to appeal to the Minister of Communications to authorise the transaction of post office savings bank business at the Elele and Etche Postal Agencies. At the same time, I would ask the Minister to convert these postal agencies to sub-post offices because they have all been overdue for conversion to this category. They have fulfilled all the conditions required for conversion into sub-post offices. I would like the Minister to give this request a priority attention.

I beg to support.

**Mr P. O. Akpan** (Uyo South East): I rise to support the estimate on this Head.

In doing so, I have to congratulate the Minister of Communications on what he has done so far, particularly in his attempt to connect the neighbouring African countries with Nigeria.

Whilst that is good in itself, I would like to say that we still need within our country, improved system of telecommunication. If one wants to send a telegram from Lagos to Uyo or to any part of Eastern Nigeria, it is not uncommon to discover that this telegram will

take about four or five days to get there. This, in my opinion, is not good at all, because it amounts to the same thing as writing an ordinary letter. I would like something to be done about this.

In the case of savings bank facilities, the Member who spoke before me mentioned the deficiencies in post office savings banks. In my opinion, since we want to encourage private and indigenous savings, it is necessary to make the savings facilities available to all on the basis of the fact that anyone can withdraw as much money as he likes provided he can prove that he is the rightful depositor to the account.

If that is done, many more people will patronise the post office savings banks. Otherwise, there is a tendency of a depositor feeling that as soon as he puts his money into the post office savings bank, then that money is somewhat imprisoned.

For fear of probably getting into trouble when one's money is thus put into the post office savings bank, people avoid saving in the post office savings bank.

In my opinion, if someone deposits his money in the post office savings bank and he can prove to the postal clerk beyond all reasonable doubt that he is the owner of that money, he should be allowed to withdraw as much money as he wants for his use. Otherwise we shall be driving people away from utilising the post office savings facilities.

Another point about savings is that people who deposit money in the post office savings bank find it difficult to withdraw. When one takes the money to the post office, the money is accepted happily, but difficulties arise when one goes back to make a withdrawal. The depositor is asked to get somebody to identify him. After this process the postal clerk may still refuse to pay on the grounds that he does not know the person who identified the depositor.

I remember sometimes in 1960 or 1961 several Members in this House spoke about this question of identification, and we agreed on the method of identification by means of passport photographs. I do not know how far the Minister of Communications has been able to implement this system.

In every savings book, the saver should be asked to attach a passport photograph. Before somebody saves in the post office, he should

[M WAZIRI]

delay to our telegrams at the Potiskum Post Office. I therefore only want to say that if the Minister does not perform his duty very well, this House should do something about it and see that things are put right in the very near future.

**Mr N. E. Elenwa** (Ahoada West) : This is one of the most important Ministries in the Federation. It is important in that it spreads to all the nooks and corners of the whole country. We have to commend the Minister of Communications for the effort he has put on for some years now, in his Ministry.

Last year, I was one of those people who criticised him severely for a lot of things he refused to do for my area. But I am one of those people who, if given a little thing, will thank the giver for the little, in order to enable him to do more in the future.

So, to-day I have come to sing another song and that is to say a little thank you to the Minister of Communications for what he has done and ask him to do more.

In the first place, I have to thank him for the promise he has made that the postal agency at Abua which has already achieved these 18,000 units of business, will soon be converted into a sub-post office.

**An hon. Member** : The Minister will not do it.

**Mr Elenwa** : It does not matter whether he does it or not but for the mere fact that he has said so, the promise is quite convincing.

I regret to say that the reply he gave me about the telegraphic facilities at Omoku Post Office is disappointing. Omoku is one of the most important places in the Ahoada Division. The whole village excluding the suburbs consist of over 15,000 people. I think that it is therefore unfair for the Minister to tell us that there is no reason why he should give them telegraphic facilities. I would like the Minister to have a second thought about it. In the first place the Minister knows like everyone of us, that the Post Office was built by communal effort and, in order to encourage the people, I think he should only give them the only thing they want, and that is telegraphic facilities.

My next point as far as this Ministry is concerned is about the payment of salaries to Postal Agents. I have often said in this House that these men do real jobs just like other civil

servants and there is no reason why they should be paid such staggeringly small allowance every month. After all, some of them are married and have children, and also they are well educated. These people who have been working conscientiously should be encouraged. It has been said here sometimes that these people defraud the Government. It is because they have nothing, they are not well paid. I cannot be checking about a thousand pounds everyday and at the end of the month to be paid only two pounds. This is an inducement for these people to do away with Government money. If Government money is to be safeguarded, these men should be paid salaries.

I have another point again about civil servants in the Post Office. Some of these postal workers are just like treasurers in the bank—they handle a lot of money everyday. They are custodian of Government money. I am appealing to the Minister that such people should be given some allowances at the end of every month for the money which they safeguard for the Government.

I have to thank the Minister for proposing to instal telephone at Ahoada. This very matter has taken me four years of continuous appeal to be able to convince the Minister as to the importance of Ahoada. It is one of the oldest divisions in this Federation.

**An hon. Member** : How old ?

**Mr Elenwa** : Very old. Some divisions were created only a few years ago. So as the Minister has promised to give us telephone in Ahoada, I think it is commendable.

In conclusion, I have to say a little bit of thank you to the Minister and the Government for all that they have done, and wish them to do more.

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South) : It is common knowledge all over the country that the vital importance of communication in the economic development of Nigeria—

**The Chairman** : If hon. Members speak louder and Members refrain from making noise, then it will be better.

**Mr Afanideh** : I was saying that it is common knowledge all over the country that the vital importance of communication all over the country for the economic development of Nigeria cannot be over-emphasised. All hon. Members from all sides of the House have always been appealing to the Minister to

establish Postal Agencies in our constituencies, but it is unfortunate that this is not done. It appears that the Minister is not very serious. I say this because since 1960 I have been asking for a Postal Agency in my constituency, but instead of that, with your permission, I would like to quote one answer which the Minister gave to me.

**An hon. Member :** of what year ?

**Mr Afanideh :** It was this year. My question was No. O.1283.

*Mr M. B. Afanideh asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will investigate the cause of the delay in opening the Ogoni Postal Agency which was built through communal effort and if he will make a statement.*

The answer which was given to me by the Parliamentary Secretary was—

*There has been a Postal Agency at Okon since 20th August, 1951 and it has been functioning satisfactorily.*

This is a deceit. It is a lie. I am a native of Okon and we have never had any Postal Agency.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications** (Mr S. F. Nwika): On a point of order, firstly, the Member for Ikot Ekpene South (*Mr Afanideh*) is not properly dressed and, secondly, he used an unparliamentary language. If the Member is properly dressed, when did the Calabar people start to—

**The Chairman :** It is just as unparliamentary for a Member to refer to another hon. Member as having told a lie just as it is for a Member to refer to another hon. Member saying that he is not properly dressed. I think Members should refrain from these provocative words.

**Mr Afanideh :** Thank you, Mr Chairman. I want to tell the Parliamentary Secretary that before he began to wear suits I had been wearing better suits. I want to say that I am properly dressed. I would like the Chairman to take note that whenever we on this side of the House stand up to talk Members from the other side of the House will be disturbing because we have refused to go to them. That is why they do not allow us to speak. I am entitled to my own opinion.

I think the Minister has neglected his duty. I am too kind, otherwise I would have asked

the Prime Minister to sack him. It is true that he is not to blame because he has not been attending the House. He has not been here up to ten days since we came on the 12th of last month. He is devoting his time in trying to reorganise his party.

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh** (Abuja and Ngwo): On a point of order, I find it difficult to understand what the Member for Ikot Ekpene South (*Mr Afanideh*) is trying to tell this House. The Posts and Telegraphs Department is one of the greatest revenue earning departments, and the Minister has been doing his work very efficiently. I think it is just because the hon. Member has no telephone in his house—

**The Chairman :** Order, order.

**Mr Afanideh :** I have already said that these people are completely biased against us from the Old Calabar Province. They do not want us to expose them. (*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman :** These interruptions are very unnecessary.

**Mr Afanideh :** I have made another application for a postal agency as far back as the 5th of December, 1962. The Minister has turned it down all the time. I appeal to him that from henceforth he must be prepared to see that my application is considered. I am now in the Government party, the N.P.C.; therefore, all my applications must be given priority and consideration.

I beg to support.

**The Chairman :** Mr Gbolagunte. (*Interruptions*). Order. If hon. Members insist on unseemingly side talks, I will put the Question.

**Mr E. D. Akinbowale** (Ijebu North): Of all the Federal Ministries, this is the only Ministry with which all Federal Legislators are mostly connected. For what the Minister has done to improve communications in the country we are very grateful. But personally, I have no cause to express my thanks to the Minister because my area has not benefited from the service of the Minister and his Ministry. My area is Ijebu North. Throughout the five years that we have been here, the Minister will bear me out that I have made appeals to him so that during my own time here and during his own time something may be done so that the people of that area may be grateful to him and I will be particularly grateful to him, but all my efforts have proved abortive up till to-day.



[CHIEF AKINFOSILE]

we set out to obtain the services of one of the two best organisations in the world to plan out a communication system for our country up to about 1970.

The Western Electric Report has arrived. It promises well. It contained not only technical and managerial reports, but it also contained an economic survey showing the state which we are in, the state of our national economy and the future projections, what is it that Nigeria needs in order to meet its very rapid economic advance. It also suggested such method of management as will enable us in this Ministry not to be coming here every year and asking for £6m. to manage our affairs. It contained projections which will enable us by 1969 to have something like £4m. as profit after running the telecommunication services of our country.

This is our only trading Department in the Federal Government and hon. Members have always insisted that it should be managed so as to make sure that we do not keep on piling up recurrent expenditure which will be paid out of Government funds. I hope, therefore, that hon. Members will bear with the Government and appreciate that the Federal Government has taken a sound approach to this matter by insisting on a national plan which we have now received.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): On a point of order, before hon. Members forget a point in the Minister's speech—the Minister of Communications talked a few minutes ago about two companies commissioned to survey our telecommunication system. Hon. Members want to know the countries of origin of these two companies. Are they British firms or German or American or Australian firms?

**Chief Akinfosile** : I spoke of the Western Electric Company—

**Mr Odulana** : I want to be enlightened, where is the Western Electric Company.

**Chief Akinfosile** : The Western Electric Company is one of the two largest telecommunication companies in the world and belongs to the United States of America.

**Mr Odulana** : That is what this honourable House wants to know. Why was the Minister keeping back the name of the country?

**Chief Akinfosile** : One of the difficulties which is facing the Ministry of Communications in finalising the form of the Western Electric Report is of a political character. That is this—there is a tendency in our country, and I think it is right, for us to insist upon a balance in the distribution of services.

In the case of telecommunications, we aim at making a profit but we also aim at putting communications in the vanguard of our industrial development. There are a number of Post Offices and Telephone Exchanges in this country which we have built and opened but which lie almost dormant because they are not being used. We had to put them there purely for political reasons. When we do this, we are unable to utilise the scarce capital which is available to us to earn more money in order to enable the Ministry of Communications to meet the needs of the rural areas.

I therefore want to appeal to Members to help my Ministry to enable Government meet the priorities correctly in our country, enable my Ministry to do the things which, first and foremost, must be done for the purpose of general economic advance.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central) : On a point of order, I am glad to hear from the Minister that he wants this House to assist him in respect of priority. The Minister spoke about politics at first and now he wants hon. Members to assist him in effecting his priority list.

I remember the last Programme of his Ministry which was for 1955-1962. Gusau Post Office was in the Programme and it was the last to be completed on the 20th of May, 1963. If it was a question of politics, I think Gusau should have been given priority and, if it was a question of priority, Gusau should have been included in the priority list.

**Chief Akinfosile** : Members have complained, and I think again justifiably, about congestion in the passage of messages by telephone throughout the country. We have discovered that the trunk system in our country is most seriously deficient.

In other words, we are even unable to make the fullest use of the few telephones which we have already in Nigeria because the telephone channels are just not enough and, so, we have

made the first phase of our 1962-68 Development, the increase in telephone channels throughout Nigeria so that the delay of one hour, two hours and three hours will be done away with.

I am personally aware that the Post office is losing thousands of pounds through loss of trunk communications. I am aware that a number of firms are seriously handicapped, I am aware that individuals very often give up attempts to make trunk calls because they just cannot get through.

I would not like to say that this is entirely the fault of my men, if you have not got the instruments you cannot work. I, of course, admit that the Post Office has its own number of unsatisfactory workers but, I do feel, that unless the public—and that can only be done through the Members of this House—understand the real difficulties that face the men, we are likely to criticise unfairly.

I would say that our first endeavour now is to increase the channels in the country but, Members do not seem to appreciate that telecommunications is not the sort of thing which can be got done in one year. Between the ordering of equipment and the opening of a telephone exchange, it very often takes my Ministry as much as three years and I do want hon. Members to understand that we will be faced with this difficulty.

It is our intention to increase, as a result of the present effort, our present 50,000 telephones to 120,000 by 1968 and to over 200,000 by 1973. There will be trunk call dialling system in all the major towns. At the moment, we are seeking to hurry up as much as we can but I do want Members to bear with my Ministry and to understand the difficulties which we face.

In the new policy, there will be a 24-hour service within two years through the Republic. This is one piece of news which I can give.

We are ready to-day with two important *White Papers* which will be laid before this House. They are the *White Papers* on Postal and on Telecommunication Development. These give details of future progress and development and, it is our hope that these *White Papers* will be published soon and give further opportunity for debate.

Now, on the external communications side, we have not done badly. By the time of our independence, we had only one single outlet, and that was through London. To-day, Nigeria has direct communication links with the Congo, the Republic of Guinea, the Ivory Coast, the Cameroons, Togo, Dahomey, Niger, Ghana and Sierra Leone.

**Mr Odulana :** What are we going to buy in Sierra Leone ?

**Chief Akinfosile :** It is suprising to notice how easily Members forget things which they call upon us to do. I do not think any other Parliament speaks more of African unity than this Parliament and when we take steps to effect it, Members forget it.

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West) :** On a point of order, I do not know the reason why Members can be happy when the Minister of Communications says that he has connected telecommunications with Ghana, Guinea, Dahomey and Ivory Coast. Whereas at home, people in the North are unable to speak to people at either Warri or Enugu.

**Chief Akinfosile :** The reduction of the 24,000 units of conversion of postal agency—

**Mr Odulana :** On a point of order, I would not like the Minister of Communications to take us for a ride. This is in the interest of all the Members. The Minister's mouth is too sweet and Members are forgetting the topic that we were discussing. The Minister says that he is connecting us with Sierra Leone, Gambia, *et cetera*. How many of us can talk to Owerri or Kano tonight? Charity begins at home.

**Mr Chairman :** Surely, we are not going to conduct this debate in a *shakey shakey* way.

**Chief Akinfosile :** I was saying that the reduction which has been proposed of conversion of postal agencies from 24,000 units to 18,000 units will bring in at least the new 150 existing postal agencies to the level of sub-post offices. In addition, we have, in the current Estimate, introduced a new Head. This is a Head providing special funds so that we can now build no less than 200 new sub-post offices in the coming year.

Now, Members have referred to the savings bank. We have endeavoured to improve savings arrangements by taking the advice of

[CHIEF AKINFOSILE]

Members of this House. We have now introduced the use of photographs as a medium of identification of depositors. One of the problems which we face is certainly that a lot of money do get missing in post offices. Efforts are being made to make sure that postal withdrawals are easier in the immediate future.

The Member for Kano East (*Alhaji Aminu Kano*) has complained about the slow distribution of telephone systems. It is probably unknown to Members that one difficulty we face in the P. and T. is this: very often cables are laid in part of a township and then we suddenly find that industrialists and Local Authorities decide to carry development in another direction. So that the cable which has been put in the ground in one place might waste and services cannot be supplied in the new area.

**Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** (Oshun South East): Why did not the Minister of Communications investigate before laying the cables?

**Chief Akinfosile**: Very often we do investigate and work in collaboration with the Planning Authority. As Members have rightly pointed out in this House, there is a tendency for him, who pays the piper to call the tune. An industrialist very often chooses the area which he considers from his technical knowledge to be more in tune with his services. I wish it is possible for Members to understand the various processes by which our work is carried out.

Now, may I end up by saying something on the allowances of Postal Agents? It is probably not understood that the running of a postal agency is not a full time work. The system of Postal Agency is based upon the theory that as much as possible postal services should be brought closer to the people. It is for this reason that wherever we find a responsible business person who owns a shop and sells things, the Posts and Telegraphs Department attempts to put a Post Office there so that the person can be of use to the community. Really, the amount of time spent on the postal work in such an agency is less than perhaps three hours in a day.

**Mr N. Nwangbo** (Ishielu): On a point of order, I want to say that before Postal Agencies are approved now, the Minister should be

sure that there will be no sales of any other article in them. This happened to me as an Agent.

**Chief Akinfosile**: The main point therefore, is that their duties are not full time; but in spite of this there are subsidiaries to the main work which they do. Nevertheless, attempt is being made now to review the allowance which we pay to them.

I have heard the various complaints which have been made. There have been talks about the mis-use of telephones. I do like to say that in the past year, as a result of steps which were taken by us we have reduced the cost of telephone services to various Ministries of the Federal Government by half. I think too that very often people get the impression that because a man has a telephone next door, they should have one themselves. This is not the case.

The availability of telephone in an area is dependent upon the existence of links between that area and the main exchange. It is possible, therefore, to provide a service within four hours in one place and not to be able to provide it in another place within two years.

I have said that our objective is that in future as soon as we can commence our programme we hope that within a week that an application is submitted, we should be able to supply telephones.

I therefore appeal to the Members of this House to bear with us and to understand that there is no greater pleasure than being responsible for implementing changes which give improvement and advancement to the country.

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu): On a point of order, we have only one hour more and we still have many items to deal with.

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central): I am indeed very grateful for the opportunity given me to speak on this Head. There is no doubt that the young and energetic Minister of Communications is doing a lot to carry out a very difficult and complex assignment.

I must say that I am very much pleased with the explanation given, particularly about the proposal to put before this House a new plan for the next five or ten years, and I therefore,

*House of Representatives Debates*

1561

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

2 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1562

think that I might as well put before the Minister, before the plan comes to this House, a number of suggestions which I think will be of great help to him in formulating this new policy.

I think that other Members have dealt extensively with the need of this Government to make the influence of the Federal Government felt in the rural area by providing the people in the villages with certain amenities like industries and Post Offices. I do not want to belabour that point, very important as it is, but I do wish to suggest to the Minister a number of things that are vital in making it possible for these amenities to be brought home to us in the rural areas.

It is true that we ask the Minister to establish postal Agencies, but the fact remains that the Minister himself never establishes a postal agency as such; the people have to apply for the postal agency. So, what I would ask the Minister to do is to modify the conditions under which these postal agencies are established.

For example, before a postal agency is established in any village or in any place, whoever wants to be the agent must first of all send in an application, then he must get a surety to pay a certain amount of money in case anything goes wrong when the Agency has been established. The Agent should also be sent for training for about three months. The community must, of course, provide the building and equipments for the venture.

I think that the Minister told us a few minutes ago that a Post Office is envisaged to be an economic proposition, and that an investor must have to put in some capital. But it will be unfair to expect the villagers to provide all the capital and for the Post Office to get all the profits.

I think it will be good, if we really want these amenities for the people, not to place too many obstacles in their way. A permanent building of cement or stone, a safe, sureties and all the rest of them—these things are difficult to get.

If sureties are provided to ensure that money is not lost then why should a postal Agency be closed automatically when a postal agent misses some amount of money? Surely, the

surety is expected to make good the loss from his own pocket. That is why a guarantor is required at all.

I think that if these things are modified the question of people complaining that at one time they had a postal agency and at another time the postal agency was closed down—and whereas it takes a long time to re-establish it an agency—will no longer arise.

Also, this policy of not wanting to open a postal agency within five miles radius of another postal agency or a Post Office is not very good. In large towns and villages like mine with a very large population, I think that people can very easily support postal agencies.

Then, what the Minister said about payment to Postal Agents would not arise because a single Postal Agent serving over 30,000 people will certainly have his hands very full indeed. The work cannot be done in three hours only and the Minister should see to it that this ceases to be a part time job.

I am appealing to the Minister to modify some of these conditions so that the establishment of Postal Agencies in the rural areas would be easy.

It is also interesting to notice that the number of units required for the elevation of a postal agency to a sub-post office has been reduced from 24,000 to 18,000. But in view of the fact that a postal agency can pay a limited number of workers, a sub-post office can easily be established in a place even before it is able to attain this 18,000 units.

One other point I would like to make about my own constituency is that it is very well known that I come from a university town. I should have thought that we abide by the biblical saying that we seek first the kingdom of God and then the rest will be added onto us. Now we have had the university, we would have thought that we would get the rest of the amenities. But for the past ten days I have found it absolutely impossible to get in touch with my constituency. I have made so many attempts and the last information I received was that the V.H.F. had been blown off, and so we cannot get in touch with the people in our constituencies at all. This is a very serious point as we all know very well that the President

[MR AMADI]

of the Republic who lives in Lagos is also the Chancellor of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and when this V.H.F. is blown off he will not get a call through from the University. It is the same V.H.F. which serves the ordinary people that serves the President.

The Minister should take note of this and, if possible, do something about this because it is very serious when the President of the Republic is cut off from the rest of the country when he is at Nsukka. I do sincerely hope that something will be done to improve the position.

I appreciate the explanation the Minister gave us in an answer to a question the other day, that he proposes to give us a 24-hour service automatic telephone exchange. But I do not know when that will be implemented. So, in the meantime, I want the Minister to make what we have as sound as possible.

Finally, in the last programme it was proposed that Ako and a few other towns in Nsukka Division should have a call box. This does not require anything more than putting a call box there and we will use it.

**An hon. Member :** Without money ?

**Mr Amadi :** We are going to pay for using it.

I am appealing to the Minister to expedite this installation of the call box. There are very many towns in the Division which will pay for the call box. In my constituency we have so many people, we have hospitals, colleges, voluntary agencies, shops and other people who will use this call box. So I would like the Minister to take this point seriously into consideration.

I have said one thing before —

**Several hon. Members :** No, no. (*Interruption*).

**Mr Amadi :** What I am saying now is my last point and that is in connection with these accounting machines which we say we need, but which we keep borrowing at very exorbitant rates. We are too fond of saying that we need these machines. If we need them, we should buy them and not just rent them at such prohibitive rates.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. A. Yacim** (Igala North West) : My observation on the proposed Estimates for the Ministry of Communications is that there is a net increase of £236,430. With such increases, it becomes very difficult for hon. Members to feel satisfied when the Minister says that he will supply their constituencies with all the facilities they require. He even went on to tell us all his efforts overseas and in the outside world generally to make communication easy. We are not satisfied with all these arrangements. I think the Minister should have utilised some part of this net increase to enable some of us enjoy some of these amenities.

Therefore, on this particular Head, those of us from the rural areas are mostly concerned. I should, as a matter of fact, ask the Minister one question. When the Minister talks about the rural areas, apart from the places of those Members of the Opposition whose places are very near the Minister's, has the Minister ever said a word about places in the interior, say, from Ikare downwards ? He continues to say that telephones will be installed in such and such a place.

**The Minister of Communications** (Chief Olu Akinfosile) : On a point of order, what I did say to the House was that the areas of major economic development will have to take priority so that we can earn more money to meet the need of the rural areas which are uneconomic. As I am a rural areas representative myself, I have vested interest in the matter.

**Mr Yacim :** I have always said and will continue to say that I disagree with the statement of the Minister. This money voted for his Ministry is the money actually got from the people in the rural areas. The money does not just come from Lagos or from all these other big towns and cities.

**An hon. Member :** It comes from overseas.

**Mr Yacim :** Even if the money is borrowed from overseas countries, we are going to pay it back, so we must make use of it together with the people in the large cities. I come from a rural area. There is no postal agency there and no post office either. And yet people in this House keep complaining about inadequate amenities in the rural areas. This, in fact, makes me feel that this will be the last Estimates that we will have to approve in this House for the Ministry of Communications unless the Minister is willing to let us share the amenities.

As several hon. Members said earlier, when we leave home for Lagos we leave a lot of businesses, a lot of people, some of them ill and some in other various conditions. For instance, when I left home, I left a woman at home in the hospital at Idah and when I tried to find out what her condition was, the line was bad. Unless one picks up a newspaper to read all that has happened in one's constituency, it is almost impossible to get in close touch with one's home, unless one can afford to pay very highly for telegrams. This situation is very, very bad, and I would like the Minister of Communications to improve on our postal and telecommunications services.

We are now approving the expenditure which will be used in paying the salaries of the staff of the Ministry of Communications. The Minister must take time from to-day, otherwise his Ministry will not retain this Head. The staff in the Ministry of Communications are not efficient at all. If there is no improvement in the Ministry of Communications, it will be merged with another Ministry—

**Chief Akinfosile :** On a point of order, I would like to let the Member for Igala North West (*Mr Yacim*) know that the staff of the Ministry of Communications are members of the Federal Public Service and, under the Constitution, Ministers as politicians must not interfere with the staff.

**Mr Yacim :** I thought the Minister of Communications had wound up. But if he wants to engage in any debate with me, I am prepared to do so.

These are my observations, and I beg to support.

**Mr T. O. Oloyede (Ife-Ila) :** In supporting the expenditure under this Head, I have to refer particularly to postal services, and in doing so, I would like to say something about postal agents' allowances.

We have discovered at the local level that Local Councils have to contribute certain percentages towards the postal agents' allowances. In order to help the rural areas, the Federal Ministry of Communications should be solely responsible for these allowances so that the Local Councils can concentrate on providing other amenities in their areas of jurisdiction.

About two years ago, on the Floor of this House I asked the Minister of Communications what he was doing about Ipetumodu Postal Agency. He told me then that it had not reached the twenty-four thousand units. He said at that time that Ipetumodu had only twenty-three thousand units. Now that the twenty-four thousand units have been reduced to eighteen thousand units, I would like the Minister to see to it that Ipetumodu Postal Agency is converted to a sub-post office.

I now come to the delay in the dispatch of telegrams by the Posts and Telegraphs. A week ago, I had an awful experience whereby a telegram which was meant for Akoko Division in Ekiti was sent directly to me. I want the Minister of Communications to look into this complaint carefully and see that the staff in his Ministry are alive to their job. Some time ago, I said on the Floor of this House that the staff in the Ministry of Communications should be sent to a training school. The Minister of Communications has travelled far and wide and, as this is an important Ministry, he should use the experience he has gained during his Ministerial tours to reorganise his Ministry properly.

One other point that I want to make is about the relationship between the staff of the Ministry of Communications and the public. When one goes to buy stamps or has dealing with the staff on the counter, one finds that they are always very impolite. The Minister of Communications should see to it that there is a cordial relation between the staff in his Ministry and the public.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

**M. Ibrahim Muku (Bida West) :** First of all, I would like to congratulate the Federal Government on what it has done so far in the field of communication.

Many Members here have expressed their views about the poor communication in the rural areas. I want to emphasise the point that the poor communication in the rural areas should be uppermost in the mind of the Minister. The rural areas should be provided with postal facilities and the Minister should see to these.

It will serve a useful purpose if the Minister can appoint some people to go to all rural areas in the country in order to ascertain their

[M. MUKU]

requirements before presenting any White Paper to this House. The Minister has not toured all the rural areas; therefore he cannot say off head the requirements of these areas. He is always in Lagos.

The Minister of Communications has been receiving requests from the rural areas for postal agencies, conversion of sub-post offices and so forth. He can only help the rural areas by providing them with these amenities.

A few minutes ago, the Minister of Communications was telling this House that he was only carrying on the initiative of the former Minister. The life of this House is now running to an end. I am afraid that if something is not done by the Minister now, no one knows who will be the next Minister of Communications after the elections.

I think many Members here are beginning to be wary about the sweet speeches delivered by some of the Ministers here like gramophone records. I think it is time something is done. If the Minister of Communications has done something even half-way to the rural areas, all these complaints would not have arisen.

For instance, we have in our constituency a place called Dagai with a second-class Emir, an administrative set-up, a Treasury, a central office, and the town is only 23 miles to Bida. But if they have any message for another place they have to send a messenger. I think if the Minister himself goes to Dagai to study carefully the conditions of these people, he would provide the place with telephone service.

There are other places all over the country which require such services, and, therefore, I am suggesting to the Minister to appoint a committee, or something like that, to go over the country and see things for themselves.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr U. O. Ayeni** (Afenmai North West) : I have listened very carefully to the points raised by the Minister of Communications, but I just want to remind him that last year also he left

us with one vital link in his Ministry, and that is the provision of mail runners all over the country. When Local Councils guarantee the establishment of postal agencies they also guarantee the appointment of mail runners. But most of them find it extremely difficult to pay these mail runners, with the result that in some rural areas there is difficulty in collecting letters between big towns and the small ones. The result is that most letters lie for a long time in some post offices without getting to their destination.

I suggested last year that the Minister should put mail runners on the pay roll of his Ministry, because a letter sent from Lagos here to a place like Ososo in Akoko Edo Division does not actually get to the owner until it has got to Auchi, and it gets to the hand of the mail runner who carries it there. If there is no mail runner to carry it from Auchi to that place, that letter lies there and does not fulfil its purpose. It is not just sufficient to think that the Local Councils should pay all these people. In most cases some of these Local Councils are terribly broke, and they cannot afford the payment of mail runners.

As was said earlier by someone, I think that what is actually needed in the policy we are likely to have in the next few weeks is a complete revision of policies for establishing postal agencies or converting a postal agency into a post office. In some places it is a bit difficult for the people to find money to build up a post office by themselves before calling upon the Government to equip such a post office. In some cases when they had built such houses the Government does not equip them.

There is one in Igara which was built as far back as 1959, but up till now nothing has been done about it. The people still use a small postal agency, whereas they have a magnificent building approved by the Ministry which cost over £4,000. There is nothing in it. Weeds have grown around the building, and they are making use of a small classroom for their postal business. Where the people are able to fulfil their own side of obligation in respect of building, the Government should encourage them by putting on materials and equipment and by appointing postmasters to work there so as to serve the community which has been able to help the poor.

House of Representatives Debates

1569

[Appropriation (1964-65)

2 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1570

The other thing is the question of sureties which are required in the appointment of postal agents. I think it is not kind to the community to close down a particular postal agency because a postal agent defrauds or steals the money in his charge. It is not the community that should be punished. All the Government has to do is to fall back on the Local Council or whoever stand surety for such a postal agent so as to pay back the money while not necessarily stopping work in the post office or postal agency. It is a bit awkward—

**Chief Akinfosile** : On a point of order, the Member for Afenmai North West (*Mr Ayeni*) has just said that because somebody makes away with the money the community is punished. This is not the case. The reason why the postal agency closes down after we have removed the defrauding postal agent is that there is no other one there, and that is not the fault of Government. Men are specially trained to man special posts, and if a man makes away with the money in a postal agency, would it be right for Government to keep the man when he has committed a criminal offence? Naturally, it is our duty to remove him immediately in order to protect the interest of the public. But if it is the question of replacement, then it is the duty of the community always to have a stand-by man trained to step in in case a man dies. That is the real problem.

**Mr Ayeni** : I think the Minister's point of order does not actually solve the problem. Nobody is suggesting that that man should be left without being punished. What we are saying is that instead of closing down a postal agency somebody from a sub-post office nearby should come and do the work. By closing down the postal agency the Government is losing money, the community is suffering, and at the end of the financial year it would be said that that place had not got so many postal units. The result is that the place would be disqualified. I think it is something worth considering. Nobody wants fraud, but we want service. The community must not suffer because of the sins or the mistakes of one man. I think that is all I have to say.

**M. Sule Abba Biu** (Biu North) : In contributing to this debate, I have to thank the Minister of Communications for the speech he

has so far made on the Floor of this House, because in his speech he has assured us that the rural areas shall benefit from what he thinks we shall have before the Parliament. With that, I would only say that he himself knows that in case of my own area, Biu, he has made a statement on the day he was opening Kano Post Office that the Province would in the near future have another post office.

He has sent some of his own officials to Biu to arrange certain things in respect of opening a Post Office there, but up till now nothing has been done by the Minister.

I think the best thing the Minister of Communications should do is to put his mind on the town of Biu and give it priority because the postal agent there is serving more than thirty thousand people at the moment.

The Minister of Communications also made mention of the finances of the Ministry. If the Minister cares about collecting radio fees there will be plenty of money which could be used for the establishment of post offices throughout the country. In my opinion the Ministry is deliberately losing money.

**Mr F. O. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : I want to speak on two important things. The first is—

**Mr D. O. Enefolá** (Igala South) : On a point of order, the Member for Ijebu South ("*Chief*" *Odulana*) is not dressed according to chieftaincy ways of dressing.

**The Chairman** : I do not know which dress is stranger. Is it that of the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) or yours ?

**Mr Odulana** : I want to ask the Minister of Communications if he knew about the installation of a telephone in a private house in Kano where the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice (*Mr Okafor*) lived during the last N.C.N.C. Convention ? Because the position is that quite a lot of people are grumbling that there are over five to ten thousand applications in Kano Emirate which



[MR ODULANA]

have been waiting for many, many months back. For an individual, therefore, to get a telephone—

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : With due deference to my hon. Friend, the Member for Ijebu South, it seems to me that he has done worse things than he is alleging. If there is a telephone installed for the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice, he paid for it and the people gave it to him. I do not think there is anything improper in that.

**Mr Odulana** : The position is that within sixteen hours, this telephone was installed. I am asking the Minister of Communications to check why that priority was given. Was it in the interest of this nation? What was the telephone used for? I was told that at the time the telephone was installed, calls were made to New York and several other places outside Nigeria. I also want to know who paid for all these calls. I am asking the Minister of Communications to institute a Commission of Inquiry and made a statement in this House.

The other one is about public telephones. Those of us who use public telephones know what anomalies and discrepancies there are in the equipments and installations. I was made to understand from a very reliable source that our public telephone equipments are those which had been rejected in Great Britain. I do not see any sense in these things because their coppers in Great Britain are quite different from ours in this country. What is more, technicians find it difficult to instal them and yet we say we are developing. To me, this does not mean development if we shall be buying rejected equipments from Great Britain. I want the Minister of Communications to look into these allegations and made a statement on the Floor of this House.

Another point is that the Post Office is in the habit of taking the legitimate earnings of people into its pockets. For instance, if a man puts his money into the post office and suddenly dies unknown to his people, nobody will be able to trace his passbook and the post office will not announce to his people that the

deceased had any money with it. I am informed that the money thus accumulated in the post office to-day is well over £1 million.

**The Minister of Communications** (Chief Olu. Akinfosile) : On a point of information, for one thing it is true that the State must not confiscate people's property, but if people's property legitimately gets into the hands of the State, then the State can use it for the benefit of those who are living.

In any case the truth is that the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) knows very well that there is always difficulty in this country about what he is saying. For instance, if an official goes to announce that some money is lying in the post office for some deceased, anybody will just come in and claim it. If a man dies and there is no notice to the post office it will be very difficult for those who work in the Savings Bank Section of the post office to know.

It is our duty to keep money. If a man deposits money with the Savings Bank we want it to be kept there as long as possible until somebody comes along and says the money there belongs to him and he shows evidence. It is not our duty to go out of our way and start looking for whoever keeps money in the post office. Certainly not.

**Mr Odulana** : In that respect the Post Office is aiding and abetting the officials working there to bring in people who bear no relationship whatsoever to the deceased to come and claim money which does not belong to them. It is my information that thousands of pounds had been cleared in the past just like that. It is my considered opinion that if anybody wants to claim the money of a relation who had died, that claimant should produce letters of administration.

The position is that if I die and I am owing the Post Office any money, my people will be called upon to come and pay the debt out of my estate. If the Post Office could do that there is no reason why it should not go out of its way to inform the relatives of a deceased to come and claim the money of their dead relative.

House of Representatives Debates

1573

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

2 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1574

In this respect I would not say that the Post Office had been stealing the money of the public. But I would say that over £1 million is lying in the Post Office and the Minister is saying that he is using it for the benefit of those who are living. That is not true. It is wrong. This is one of those things that you as a Minister and as a lawyer have been doing.

**M. Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi) : Will the hon. Member address the Chair? It seems that he is directly pointing to the Minister.

**Mr Odulana** : This is a very straightforward matter which is happening in all the post offices in this country. If the Government wants us to keep our money in the post office as is being advertised by the Ministry of Communications, then when there is money left in the post office by any deceased person it should be advertised in the *Gazette* that such and such a person left so and so amount of money in the Post Office Savings Bank. Any next-of-kin of the deceased person who can produce a letter of administration in proper manner can go for the money. And I want Members to realise that the money lying in the post office in this way is over £1 million. And I think that the post office should not sit on that money. It must be paid to the owners or to the relatives of the deceased persons.

**Chief Akinfosile** : I would like to assure hon. Members that I shall look into this matter. But I would also say that it is the responsibility of a next-of-kin of a deceased person to obtain his letter of administration and make his claim on the post office. It is not our duty to find out who is dead and then to seek the next-of-kin and say, "Come and take the money".

I really think that the hon. Member will agree with me that the responsibility is, in the first instance, that of the next-of-kin of the deceased person. I will nevertheless inquire into this matter and inform the House further. Also, I shall look into other matters which he might have raised in order to see what duties are left to be done.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East) : As a layman I find it extremely difficult to under-

stand the language of the learned Minister. I wonder how public money can be termed legitimate money of the Government. Can somebody die and the Government keep quiet about it? What is the Minister doing? I think the public requires a more convincing explanation from him.

**Chief Akinfosile** : The more convincing explanation is this. The hon. Member suggested that the Government was stealing the people's money and I said that when money comes to us legitimately, we have a right to keep it. It is legitimate when a man says, "I come to the post office to deposit my money; you keep it for me". So this has come to the Government in a legitimate way. We are entitled to keep it.

I know that the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) is a businessman. When he deposits his money with a bank, the bank trades with it. The bank does. It lends it to other people and makes profit. So this is what we do in the post office. If the hon. Member dies and his next-of-kin obtains a letter of administration and brings it to the bank, the bank will pay the money to the next-of-kin. In the same way, if a depositor in the Savings Bank dies and the next-of-kin produces a letter of administration, we shall pay the money to him. But it is not our duty to say, "We have got this money; somebody should come and claim it". We do not know even when the man dies.

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** (Ahoada Central) : I would like to begin my speech by saying that it is gratifying to note the establishment of the Public Relations Section in the Posts and Telegraphs Department. In fact incivility in this Department is so glaring that it has become proverbial to say, "The post office face". It is to be hoped that with the establishment of the Public Relations Section in the Posts and Telegraphs Department there will be a change for the better.

It was my intention to move that the expenditure on this Head should be reduced by £1,000. But judging from the Minister's explanation, I think I will refrain from doing so. All the same, I still do not see my way clear to support the expenditure on this Head.

[MR ONWUCHEKWA]

I say this because I cannot reckon what I can hold to say that this Ministry has done for my constituency throughout these four years.

**Mr S. A. Babatunde** (Ilorin Central): I think that if any Member in this House knows that he is a prospective Minister he will know how to level his criticism on any Minister.

**Mr Onwuchekwa**: I have been told that Obia Postal Agency has qualified for upgrading to a sub-post office. But up till now nothing has been done to expedite that. So I cannot understand the sweet words and the sweet promises of the Minister. After coming here and then being promised, we go back to our constituencies and tell them that this thing has been done, or that this is our achievement. But when we wait and wait for donkey years and we do not get those things done it throws us into a great disadvantage.

Again, the Minister knows the need of that area. He himself has toured the Diobu area, that is around Port Harcourt. He quite agrees that there was a great need for establishing a good post office around Diobu. But up till now nothing has been done. When we go back to our constituencies our people will be asking us, "What have you achieved for us"? We have nothing to tell them. That is why I have said that I have not seen my way clear to approving this expenditure. However, with the Minister's explanation, I hope that he will be able to implement those things he has explained. And I would like him to consider the Igrahia Postal Agency.

**Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyarma** (Hadejia North): On a point of order, as the time is running very much against us I wonder if the hon. Member speaking will not be called upon now to resume his seat.

**The Chairman**: I quite appreciate the hon. Member's warning. I had earlier on warned the House twice that we had so many Heads to consider and that I should put the question. But it seemed then that Members were very anxious to contribute to the debate on this Head.

Perhaps it might be a little bit more courteous for the Member to wind up his speech now.

**Mr Onwuchekwa**: Well, may I end by saying that the Minister should come round once again to that area, especially where there are industrial projects. When the Minister comes there, he will note that there is need for upgrading the Igrahia Postal Agency, Igrita Postal Agency and Elele Postal Agency.

**Mr N. D. Ukah** (Owerri North East): On a point of order, while thanking the Minister of Communications for his reply to my Question Number O.407 in the *Hansard* of yesterday, I wish to point out that the conversion of a Postal Agency to a Sub-Post Office is usually hampered by delay in supplying the necessary equipment.

It is, therefore, my immediate request that the Minister expedite action on the supply of the fittings or equipment necessary for the conversion of the Ekwerazu Postal Agency to a Sub-Post Office in the existing large concrete building with a big safe.

I hope the Minister will give this priority attention as it will spur on the local community to erect, by community effort, a new building capable of housing even a full-fledged Post Office.

**Mr Onwuchekwa**: I wish to remind the Minister of his promises and to ask that when he comes round there or when the proposed White Paper is submitted, all the places around that area will be supplied with postal amenities.

I beg to support.

£6,539,470 for Head 25—Ministry of Communications—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 26.—MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Question proposed, That £409,340 for Head 26—Ministry of Defence—stand part of the Schedule.

*House of Representatives Debates*

1577

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

2 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1578

**Mr J. S. Tarka** (Jemgba) : I wish to crave your indulgence to join together the two Amendments which I proposed on Head 26—Ministry of Defence, and Head 27—Nigerian Army, since they fall under the same Minister.

When one has been on this side of the House for such a long time, the tendency is that one goes into the habit of constant criticism, but once in a while nevertheless there is cause for one to give praise to Government measures when such measures are conducive to public progress. It is as a result of this that I wish to make a few observations on these two Heads.

The Ministry of Defence has come under severe criticism from Members on this side of the House within the past few years, especially when large sums of money were being voted in the Federal Government Estimates towards expenditure under the various Heads that fall within this Ministry. Arguments were being put forward by Members that such expenditure amounted very much to public wastes since what the country needs is social amenities for the rural areas in most cases. Nevertheless, events in recent times have shown that the money spent on this Ministry has been spent as part of the essential services for the nation.

We feel that what the Government has done towards the cause of African unity is very much timely and deserves the praise of all people with commonsense in this country. The Federal Government has participated in this venture as a result of appeals from the United Nations Organisation of which we are an active member. In recent times, we have not only been very vocal on the issue of African unity, but we have taken active steps to show that we are part and parcel of Africa and can, in fact, lead Africa.

I see a lot of sense in the action of the Government for sending troops to aid a sister African country in the eastern part of the continent. This has recently been done as an aid extended towards the Republic of Tanganyika. The Government has done one thing which calls for a slight criticism. Before the Government took the decision to send our troops to the Congo, this Parliament was taken into confidence by the Prime Minister, but

on this measure in respect of the Republic of Tanganyika, the Federal Government has not taken this Parliament into confidence.

The expenditure towards this venture surely calls for approval by this Parliament. I think it has already been approved in the previous Estimates but, in spite of that, I feel that this Parliament should have been told because the exercise involves—or it might involve—the lives and security of the individual soldiers who are going to serve in that East African Republic. The loss of one life in our army is something that would interest every Member of this Parliament. Nevertheless, as I said before, in spite of everything, the action has been very timely. (*Hear, hear*).

I would like, however, to make a suggestion that in the interest of African unity, the Federal Government should not extend similar aid to any African country which does not believe in democracy if it is called upon to extend such aid. There are many such countries in Africa. We know of the former French territories in Africa. Some of these territories do not believe in democracy. This is not the proper place to criticise the internal policies of these countries, but I want to emphasise this point because I know very well that our Government, in spite of everything, believes in democracy and we can only show this example of democracy by not protecting and condoning autocracy and dictatorship which are being practised in some of our sister African countries. (*Applause*)

In conclusion, I would therefore suggest that the Federal Government should take into active consideration the possibility of establishing an African High Command which will co-ordinate the activities of the various forces in Africa rather than act alone when it devolves on us to extend military aid to African countries.

I beg to support.

**The Chairman** : As it is only one minute more to go, I think I have to put the question to conclude to-day's business in accordance with the order of the House this morning.

£409,340 for Head 26 — Ministry of Defence  
— ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

*House of Representatives Debates*

1579

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

2 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1580

HEAD 27.—NIGERIAN ARMY

£5,376,490 for Head 27.—*Nigerian Army—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

HEAD 28.—NIGERIAN NAVY

£787,580 for Head 28.—*Nigerian Navy—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

HEAD 29.—NIGERIAN AIR FORCE

£603,780 for Head 29.—*Nigerian Air Force—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

*Committee report Progress—to sit again, Tomorrow.*

**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

Friday, 3rd April, 1964

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

OATHS

Oath of allegiance was administered to the following new Member—

M. Muhammadu Belo Tilli (Gwandu South)

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

**The Minister of Education** (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku): Recently, my attention had been drawn to the fact that some hon. Members of this House go about disseminating information contrary to this Government's policy on foreign scholarships, informing students in their constituencies that as the Federal Minister of Education I have personally allocated foreign scholarships to them for distribution to students in their various constituencies. In one case, a young student, evidently without any promptings by him, was actually invited by a Member to say whether he wished to pursue a degree course abroad—

**Mr E. D. Akinbowale** (Ijebu North): On a point of order, I do not want to embarrass the Minister. All of us know him very well, but I am surprised to find in our *Hansard* that there is another officer bearing a name similar to his own. The officer bears the name—'Onyiba Aja Nwachuku'. I want the Minister to confirm whether he is bearing that name too.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku**: That title is not 'Onyiba'; it is 'Onyiba' which is higher than a chief and I am entitled to use it. It is the highest social height which one can attain in Afikpo Division.

**Mr Akinbowale**: The Minister should have informed the House.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku**: There is no need to inform the House.

**Mr Akinbowale**: He should then arrange a cocktail party for that!

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku**: Noted! (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker**: I do not like these interruptions. Quite a few people are sitting on the Opposition Bench and yet they make the most noise.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku**: As I was saying, in one case, a young student, evidently without any promptings by him, was actually invited by a Member to say whether he wished to pursue a degree course abroad as if the Member intended to award to this student one of the two scholarships which I, the Minister, was supposed to have given to him for distribution to students in his constituency. He advised him to forward immediately his relevant educational and personal data if he was interested.

My colleague in charge of the Regional Ministry of Education concerned was no less perturbed than I was by this cheap propaganda calculated, I presume, to yield some dubious political advantage, nor is it necessary to remind hon. Members that this was a flagrant abuse of our honourable position. I would, therefore, like to be placed on the records of this honourable House that I totally disapprove of this irresponsible and dishonourable information and was never a party to it. Furthermore, the hon. Member concerned should know that it is a shameful thing to peddle untruths to innocent students.

I should like to seize this opportunity to emphasise again that under the existing arrangements the Bureau for External Aid on Education which is under—

**Mr P. O. Akpan** (Uyo South East): On a point of order, I think it is very embarrassing to Members of this House. I would like the Minister to mention the name of that Member because as it is now it is not possible for anybody to believe him. I do not like to be associated with this sort of thing.

**Mr Speaker**: I thought the Member would allow the Minister to conclude his speech before he could be in a position to claim that no name has been mentioned.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku**: I think that a Ministerial statement is not subject to debate. As they say, suspicion haunts the guilty and if the hon. Member knows that he is the one, God bless him.

[ONYIBA AJA NWACHUKU]

Furthermore, the hon. Member concerned should know that it is a shameful thing to peddle untruths to innocent students. I should like to seize this opportunity to emphasise again that under the existing arrangements the Bureau for External Aid on Education, which is under my Ministry, is responsible for all questions concerning the award of foreign scholarships. Prospective applicants for foreign scholarships address their applications in the first place to their Regional Governments. Selections are made by these Governments and the Bureau for External Aid. Interviews are arranged by the donor-governments. Failure to comply with this procedure automatically disqualifies a candidate however well qualified he may be in other respects.

There is, I repeat, no question whatsoever of my personally awarding scholarships to students through their hon. Representatives in this House. Thank you, Sir.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East):** On a point of order, a few days ago I moved a Motion in this honourable House about parliamentary privileges. One of the points mentioned was a committee to investigate allegations similar to the one the Minister has just made. In the absence of such a committee it is incumbent on the Minister to mention the Member who is guilty of this offence.

#### ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1964-65) BILL  
(SECOND ALLOTTED DAY): CONSIDERED IN  
COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

*Progress:* HEAD 30.—MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*Question proposed, That £621,320, for Head 30—Ministry of Economic Development—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu North):** The Minister of Economic Development should be one of the happiest Ministers in this country, because he has good materials to work. Nigeria is blessed with the manpower which is the most important thing in the economic development of any country.

Secondly, Nigeria is blessed with a large deposit of minerals and raw materials in abundance. Definitely, the Minister has got

very good and enough materials to work with. We have got the men and the materials, but it is unfortunate that we have not got the money.

There are three things necessary for the development of a young country like Nigeria. The country must have manpower, it must have materials which luckily we have, and surely it must have money; it is through the office of the Minister of Economic Development that the money can be got. There must be mobilisation, and mobilisation of all available raw materials into economic value will enrich this country.

We are always going to America, to Israel and to the United Kingdom to borrow money even though we have got the materials to work with to have our own money and be able to lend it out to others.

There is also one thing which we must know about the economic development of this country. It is by making value out of nothing that the wealth of the nation can increase. I repeat; it is by making value out of nothing that the wealth of this country can increase. To make value out of nothing means to use all the raw materials which we have in abundance in the country. We should not waste our raw materials. We should make value out of them by using them to manufacture our own goods instead of our continuing to depend on imported raw materials.

Members are always complaining that 'made in Nigeria' products are very costly compared with the imported ones. We must all realise that there are two classes of 'made in Nigeria' products—those manufactured from local raw materials and those manufactured from imported raw materials.

I am sure that Members will agree with me that when industrialists come to this country to establish their industries what they do is to import the materials to be used in those industries from abroad, and by so doing a lot of money is leaving the country through the back door. When raw materials are imported like that, normally the cost of production will be high, as a result of which the goods produced will be much more costly than they could have been if the raw materials used in producing them had been raw materials from Nigeria. I want to assure hon. Members that as soon as

we begin to use our own available raw materials, the 'made in Nigeria' products will be manufactured cheaply and they will cost less to buy.

We all know that 99 per cent of the existing industries in the country to-day are owned by foreign investors, and 99 per cent of these investors import their raw materials. They do not make use of our own raw materials, and it is only the Minister of Economic Development who can save this country from such a situation. Nigeria is in the continent of Africa, and during the colonial days we sent our sons and daughters to the United Kingdom to—

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : On a point of order, I think my hon. Friend, the Member for Awgu North is developing such an important theory that we need to ask him to be a little bit more specific; because 95 per cent of the raw materials used by our cement factory at Nkalagu are local materials. If there are other factories which are deliberately avoiding local materials, the hon. Member should mention them so that not only the House but the Minister himself will know precisely where to direct his attention.

**Mr Chukwu** : I want to inform the Member for Orlu South East that the cement factory at Nkalagu still imports two important chemicals in the production of their cement. No manufacturer will ever tell anybody the technical know-how. The Nkalagu cement factory imports a lot of things which the hon. Member does not know about. It is not only from limestone that they manufacture cement, and I want Members to know that.

In the United Kingdom, for instance, they have the British Geological Survey Laboratory. This is an international laboratory. Nigeria being in the continent of Africa should establish a National Chemical Laboratory in this country to enable us examine all our raw materials. My theory is that things equal to the same thing are equal to one another. Names given to things do not matter to scientists nor to good chemists. What matters is the effect of the materials used to produce our own goods. It is not the colour of the products either that matters.

If we have our own National Chemical Laboratory in this country, it will be in a position to examine the imported raw materials

and see whether we have substitutes for them in Nigeria. If we have substitutes for these imported raw materials surely, the substitute will be used in place of the imported ones. If we can make use of our own raw materials without any inferiority complex that if the materials are given names by experts they will not be as good as the imported ones, then the country will be rich. Maybe these experts will bring in their imported materials through the back door and give them a better name, nobody knows. But I want to assure you, Mr Chairman, that technicians can give you something and call it another thing.

Now, let us take one case as an example. The Parliament is here sitting. The E.C.N. people can take off the light here if through carelessness an apprentice is asked to handle the meter and he mishandles it. If the light is off and we dare to complain all we shall be told is that the light is off due to technical trouble. But the fact is that somebody who is inexperienced has been sent to cause the trouble, and the engineer will continue to say that the light was off due to technical faults, and, surely, as laymen there is nothing we can do but to accept whatever explanation is given by the engineer.

We must have our own made goods, we must have our own laboratories and that is one important thing I must say. I want to recommend through this House that where we have an expert to import a particular raw material from his own home and make his own products, he will be making about two to three hundred per cent profit out of that. And because he is the investor and we are the beggars so to say, he must import from wherever he likes.

**An hon. Member** : The hon. Member has made his points. Let him sit down.

**Mr Chukwu** : The hon. Gentleman should not talk to me like that.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East) : Very frankly, Mr Chairman, my hon. Friend, the Member for Awgu North (*Mr Chukwu*) is one of the geniuses we have in this country. He has produced paint out of nothing and I therefore, recommend that he be made the director of this laboratory.

**Mr Chukwu** : I want to substantiate this argument with one point. In this country people think that the siting of an industry is



[MR CHUKWU]

like the siting of an educational institution. They are two different things. Before an industrialist or an investor decides to invest his money in any country, the availability of raw materials required for that establishment, the transportation and everything are taken into serious consideration.

In Eastern Nigeria about 1960-61, we had some West Germans who wanted to establish a ceramic industry. They were advised to check on the raw materials throughout Eastern Nigeria. They stayed for six months and were not able to achieve anything. When they were contemplating going back, Chief Nwodo, the then Minister of Finance contacted me and said "Well, Mr Chukwu, can you help us to find some raw material for this very important industry because the people are on the verge of going back home".

Within just twenty-four hours, I was able to secure a site for them. It was I who directed the siting of the ceramic industry at Umuahia. Dr Michael Okpara, the Premier of Eastern Nigeria does not know anything about the siting. Yet people have been challenging him for siting such an industry at Umuahia simply, as they say, because he is the Premier and comes from Umuahia. This, of course, is sheer ignorance.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North) : On a point of order, this is a very interesting piece of information. But I think the decision was that of the Eastern Cabinet. The hon. Member might have made suggestions to the Government, but he did not direct the siting.

**Mr Chukwu** : Technically, I directed the siting.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : On a point of order, it is very interesting to hear the hon. Member relate his experiences. But when we hear him say that he directed the siting of the industry at Umuahia, I would like to ask who supplied the finance.

**Mr Chukwu** : When I used the word "direct" I meant that I had shown a deposit which I had used for my own business. And I have shown that it is the availability of raw materials more than any other thing, that dictates exactly where an industry may be sited. That is one of the very important points in founding an industry. That parti-

cular area was leased by my Company for its own business. That is why I have taken the trouble to say all this.

When we look at things we must be practical. We think that every constituency must have industry. But I can assure this House that the Federal Government will never be able to establish industries in our own constituencies one by one. However, I can assure Members that it is possible that the private sector can go into business, and perhaps be able to achieve this.

As the Minister of Finance said in his speech, little drops of water make a mighty ocean. America is rich because they have the private sector full of industrialists, who have small industries while the Government carries on the national and major industries. I just want to say that we should look into such valuable things like oil which we have in this country in abundance.

Let me give the House a practical example. Let us ask ourselves a few questions. We make use of face powder in this country. One may imagine how many average ladies, youngmen, old men and in fact children make use of face powder. Assuming that our population is fifty million and at least twenty million of these people are making use of this powder, one can then imagine what quantity of this stuff is consumed, when it is remembered that an average lady makes use of face powder about six times every day and a youngman about four times and children much more than that and even up to the dead.

With this amount of face powder consumed daily, it may be asked "how many face powder factories have we in Nigeria"? That is how we work towards economy. If we have a face powder industry in this country, are we getting the raw material in this country? As I said earlier, take it that we have about twenty million people making use of face powder at an average of four times a day. That means eighty million times a day, which means that the quantity of face powder consumed in a day will fill a hundred tippers. We know what that means, but we ignore these things. We think that face powder is a small thing. It is not a small thing at all, and if we value it, we should have not less than £50,000 leaving the coast of this country because we do not make use of our raw materials and because we have not got any industry developing that aspect of our trade.

*House of Representatives Debates*

1589

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

3 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1590

**An hon. Member :** It is because of lack of capital.

**Mr Chukwu :** We know we lack capital, but we have to make a start. We must start from scratch and not with millions of pounds. Those negligible articles we feel are very minute show their importance when we check their consumption.

Another important thing in our economic development is the quantity of paper used in this country—plain sheets, writing sheets, paper sacks and paper for printing. The first question that arises is then, have we any paper industry in this country? And if we have do we make use of our own raw materials? Because of the alarming quantity of paper consumed in this country, it becomes necessary for efforts to be made to utilise our white wood and all the materials we have for paper manufacture. I therefore suggest that this country should go straight away into establishing a paper manufacturing industry. This, in turn, will make it possible for us to stop our money leaving this country anyhow.

If we have any particular industry which enables us to prevent the importation of other raw materials, it will help us a great deal to offer employment to the citizens. It will also enable us retain our money in the country for other developments. If we import raw materials, it is still a fraction of that money which is going away, but if we are able to retain what we have and be proud of what we have, I can assure this House that this country will be very rich in a short time and we will be able to live on our own, give loans to other countries and make profits on such loans.

Another point I would like to talk about is this question of roads. Hon. Members are aware that without good communication system, industrial development is impossible. It can never move ahead.

We have thousands of miles of untarred roads in the Republic and if we are going to make this country to be industrially developed, then we must have good roads. We should make use of Nigerian coal in tarring our roads. There should be a coal tar industry. It is very important and very necessary.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** On a point of order, I am trying to protect hon. Members. When one sees a warrior like the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*), one is bound to be afraid.

**The Chairman :** He is not holding a weapon here.

**Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) :** On a point of order, I am only here to protect the House and the Minister of Finance in particular.

**Mr Chukwu :** As I was saying, Sir, the establishment of a coal tar industry and the use of Nigeria coal in tarring our roads is very, very necessary. Thousands of Nigerians have been retrenched from the service of Nigerian Coal Industry.

The coal production is high, but unfortunately there is no good market for it, and this in turn has caused the retrenchment of thousands of workers. To make use of Nigerian coal for the manufacture of coal tar, in the first instance, would serve us in one way, by helping us to re-engage the retrenched workers in the coal industry. It would help us to have our own coal tar with which to tar our roads and to maintain our existing roads that are bad. We should try to see that something is done about the establishment of coal tar industry in Nigeria.

The next point I would like to mention is this question of steel industry. We have a large deposit of raw materials for the manufacture of steel in Eastern Nigeria. The Federal Government proposed to establish a Steel factory costing £30 million in Onitsha.

As I said earlier on, the siting of an industry depends on the availability of raw materials. The siting of that factory at Onitsha was proposed because of its nearness to Enugu. The coal at Enugu can easily be transported to Onitsha. Again, Onitsha is near to Port Harcourt which is a sea port. We know the value of steel and we know that the establishment of a steel industry will attract other secondary industries.

With the establishment of this industry, we can manufacture our own cars and aeroplanes. The establishment of this industry is very necessary. Many people feel that we cannot put all our eggs in one basket. Such a thing like the steel industry will benefit this country, if we have the means to establish it.

[MR CHUKWU]

We have the raw materials in abundance and cheap power can now be got from *Afam* gas industry which is very near to Onitsha. With Onitsha near to Port Harcourt and with the linking of a railway line from Calabar via Onitsha to the Mid-West, the industry would be well placed. I think that the Minister of Economic Development should do something about it in fairness to the economy of this country.

I beg to support.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi) : This is the Committee stage and I will be extremely brief. I would only like to congratulate the entire Ministry for the efforts that it has made so far.

We are very happy that it has been pursuing the policy which we have very much in mind in implementing the Six-Year Development Programme for this country.

Furthermore, we would certainly like to see more economists employed in this Ministry, for it is not enough to have one economist who in my opinion is doing the job which should be done by at least three or four economists.

I am sure that the Minister is aware of the fact that our Ambassador to Brussels, Mr Okigbo, is doing too much work and I think it would do this country a lot of good if both the Minister of Economic Development and the Minister of Commerce and Industry would jointly comb the country and employ or obtain on secondment to the federal service all the *Okigbos* that are in the country. There is no use killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

We have an economist who is supposed to be stationed in Brussels. The same economist flies out to Nigeria every month and at the same time, he is working extremely hard on the Trade and Development Conference organised by the United Nations in Geneva.

I am therefore, strongly appealing to these two Ministers, to obtain the services of our best economists in the country through secondment from the Regional Governments.

One cannot help but appreciate the excellent work being done by the Minister of Commerce and Industry at Geneva, even though this Head is entitled Economic Development.

I remember very well having listened very attentively to the Minister of Finance who paid very glowing tributes to what the Minister of Commerce and Industry has done in Geneva. This is only a matter of emphasis and if I repeat it, I will not be doing any harm.

We all appreciate it, and we all hope and look forward to a more vigorous and more conscious pursuit of our policy by not only these two Ministers but also the other Ministers as well.

If I may be permitted, I would still appeal for the second time to the Minister of Economic Development to work in conjunction with the Minister of Commerce and Industry towards creating a more favourable atmosphere for investment in this country.

We cannot help but look forward to investors coming into this country and finding a congenial atmosphere for investment, and also participating in the much desired work of implementing or helping to implement the Six-Year Development Programme that we all have been wishing to see implemented.

Certain people in this country I am sure hon. Members will agree with me, have not been very patriotic. They are not being nationalistic in their utterances and in their actions, and as a result there has been some sort of feelings among certain investors abroad. They have a feeling of anxiety that they would fail if they come to this country to invest. The Government should be very vigilant and take all the necessary steps to check some of these irresponsible utterances.

As I have said earlier, there is hardly any need for me to speak at length on this issue as I am not an economist. But I would like to appeal to the Minister of Economic Development to obtain the services of the best economists in this country.

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (Ibarapa) : The first point I want to make refers to what I said last year on this Head and that is the way our Estimates are prepared.

When I look at page 76 of these Estimates, I am reluctant to feel that we are still independent. I find terms like "Imperial Forest", "Empire Cotton" "West African" and so on running through the whole page. I feel that

*House of Representatives Debates*

1593

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

3 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1594

there is no more empire and if there is any empire anywhere, Nigeria, at least, does not belong to it. Our Estimates I think, should project us.

The Estimates contain something about the West African Institute for Trypanosomiasis Research. There is nothing like that now. But it is in these Estimates and Nigeria is fully responsible for this research. Why do we have to put West Africa again? The same thing is applicable to the West African Cocoa Research Institute. We are fully responsible for this institute. Ghana and Sierra Leone have backed out and Nigeria is the only country responsible for financing the scheme. Why do we have to put "West Africa" again? When shall we do away with all these wrong nomenclatures?

This Head of Estimates only reminds one of our colonial days and we do not want to remember anything about the colonial days. Our economy in this country should be at least 80 per cent agrarian. There is no reason why we should talk of cotton industry when there is no electricity in the rural areas. We can help the economy of the rural areas by establishing agricultural farms and institutes.

The Western Region started one very recently called "The Integrated Rural Community Farm". In the scheme they expect to have a weaving industry which does not need to use any electricity. They expect to have a brick making industry also without using electricity and there are boys there who are employed on farming so as to produce the food necessary for themselves and everybody in the country. If we have many of such Integrated Farm Institutes we shall be able to produce sufficient for export.

We do not want to wait until we have electricity before we intensify the development of our economy. We want all our boys to go back to the farm, at least, the greater majority of them. Unless this happens, we shall remain pen-pushers.

If we want these boys to go back to the farm, the Government must be prepared to spend money on mechanisation. These boys may like to go back to the farm but they have not got the money for mechanisation and if the boys know very well that they are not going to use hoes and cutlasses to farm, they will be very happy to go to the farm.

Most of our crops are not regarded as economic crops. We regard them as cash crop or food crop. When we think of economic crop we think about cocoa, ground nuts, palm produce and all those other crops that fetch us big money when we export them. We have food stuffs which could be produced in economic quantity and be exported to other parts of Africa, at least.

I mentioned yesterday and I am going to mention again to-day that we could develop the growth of guinea corn to the extent that we would be able to export the crop to other parts of the world. The same thing applies to maize. The custard and the corn flake which we buy from the shops are all made from maize. There is no reason why we should not make our own finished product from maize. I think that our economy will be intensified if we are able to spend more money on the development of these local crops and make them become economical.

There is a point I want to mention with regard to our economic relationship with other parts of the world. We seem to depend so much on the western powers. We should go to the eastern side of Europe to seek help. A few months ago the negotiations of the British people with the Common Market countries broke down because President De Gaulle would not like Britain to join the Common Market. President De Gaulle knew very well what he was doing.

**The Chairman :** I would like the Member for Ibarapa (*Mr Gbolagunte*) to concentrate on matters that relate to our economic development.

**Mr Gbolagunte :** I am trying to say that we have Dr Okigbo who is now working for Nigeria to deal with these other European Common Market countries and if we can put Dr Okigbo there to negotiate on our behalf, he must deal with these people. I want him to go to the eastern part of the world particularly to Russia, to seek help on the development of our economy.

I have just mentioned the question of maize. A few months ago I was in America, I found that maize grows very well in United States of America. It grows as much in Mexico as it does in Nigeria. But they make so much use of their maize that I was ashamed to claim that

[MR GBOLAGUNTE]

we also produce maize in Nigeria. If we deal with the Western zone without success, then we may go to the Eastern zone because Russia produces maize in Ukraine.

We are looking for progress, and we have to look for progress anywhere we can get it in any part of the world. We should in no way discriminate. These are the few points I want to make and I hope the Minister will note them.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : In supporting the expenditure on this Head I would like to make a few observations. In the first place we notice, just as the hon. Member who spoke last pointed out, a number of subventions under this Head. For the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad, we are voting £7,800 ; for the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, we are voting £4,800 ; and for the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau, £8,970.

Now with these three institutes in particular may I know whether there is anything preventing us from developing, say, an Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in any of our existing universities? The Ibadan University I think should be able to look after that.

We have got a lot of agricultural land in Nigeria, and none of the universities we have is sited in the desert, they are all within the tropics. When we have got abundance of tropical conditions and tropical lands and institutions in Nigeria, it is necessary for the Minister of Economic Development to kindly explain to us the justification for our continued subvention with regard to this Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad. I think we have come to a stage when we could establish this sort of agricultural institute in Nigeria.

Now on the question of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, we would like to hear more about this. We would also like to hear more about the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau and, if need be, could the Minister tell us what effort is being made to encourage development of institutions on the lines of the objectives of these three institutions in Nigeria.

On the West African Institute for Oil Palm Research I am sure there are many Members who are unaware of the existence of this institute. But one surprising thing is that we still

do not know how much contribution this institute is making towards the oil palm industry in Nigeria. One would have expected that the research would have been much more beneficial if the institute were sited in the area where this industry is more prevalent.

I believe that the Oil Palm Research Institute is sited in a forest in Benin Province. Quite frankly, I would have thought, considering the size of the oil palm industry in Eastern Nigeria, that either we have the institute or a very important arm of it there ; so that the people carrying on the research will be doing so in an environment from which they can learn day by day and experiment much more easily.

We have a vote with regard to Man-Power Survey. I think many of us welcomed the establishment of the Man-Power Board, and I would say that one of the important things that the Board should direct its attention to is the present large scale misdirection of man-power. There is a lot of outcry over the question of unemployment and growing unemployment.

Well, I would say that in my humble view this outcry about unemployment is fictitious, in the sense that we have a lot of misdirection of man-power. At the time when everybody who goes to school looks up to getting some salaried job without which he considers himself unemployed, one still finds a number of people who are doing some sort of modest trade in the market describing themselves as unemployed ; regardless of the fact that they are engaged in some form of self-employment and are producing something.

Most people consider themselves unemployed merely because nobody is paying them a monthly wage. I think that that notion should be cleared, and people should be more and more encouraged to keep themselves employed.

In these days the primary school leaver can hardly be compared to the primary school leaver in the standard of education, of about ten or fifteen years ago. Everybody who finishes his elementary school considers himself fit for some clerical wage-earning job somewhere and the result is that we are having too many Standard Six boys floating around the urban areas whereas in the villages, jobs that they ought to be doing are left unattended to.

House of Representatives Debates

1597

[Appropriation (1964-65)

3 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1598

In the villages where the traditional palm branches have been used the trees grow waste. Those who are in a position to attend to them no longer want to do so because they have spent a few years in school. They want to be employed in Lagos, Port Harcourt or Kano, only to be paid about six pounds a month.

I think it has become very necessary that the Man-Power Board should direct itself very strongly to the question of correcting the large scale misdirection of labour that exists in the country to-day. So that when we talk of unemployment let it be unemployment in a much more serious sense, and not voluntary and self-imposed unemployment, that is, idling away when there are things that one can start doing for himself.

As a matter of fact in most of these rural areas those who abandoned their pride for having been to school and attach themselves to what they can find in the locality make a good living. And I think people should be made to appreciate that fact.

There is another important factor which I think the Minister of Economic Development possibly in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry should address himself to. That is the question of distribution of products, particularly food, in Nigeria.

One finds that as from the middle of last year there has been large scale differences in price levels, particularly with regard to food ; one also finds that in some parts of the Eastern Region *Gari* may be selling at twenty or forty cups for a shilling while in a place like Lagos one can hardly buy ten cups for a shilling. The result is that those in Lagos find it more expensive and those in the East find it too cheap.

The producers themselves are feeling frustrated because they cannot get a good price for what they are producing. So if they had a glut or depression in any one year they should not be expected to repeat their production the following year. But because there is greater demand for it in Lagos the need then arises for some form of transportation system to be organised by the government or with government encouragement. Let the Government initiate a study in it, so that the distribution of food in Nigeria would be much more efficient.

Fresh fish is produced in some parts of the North. It is much cheaper in a particular area than it is in some other parts of the North, but by the time they are sent down to other centres of the population they may have lost a good part of their nutritive value and, not only that, they become more expensive.

I think it is a matter in which the government can initiate some studies and encourage some moves. Take our railway, for example. There is nothing to stop the Railway Corporation from running refrigerated wagons—special food express trains—so that fresh fish caught in the Chad could be sent down to Lagos by the quickest possible means, or sent to some other centres where fresh fish is only heard of in terms of reference being made to them in text books. When fresh fish are brought down to such places, people would see them, buy them and enjoy them. The people would also buy them much more cheaply than they would buy the less nutritive dried fish.

The question of distribution of food, whether by road or by land or by air, deserves priority attention. It would help to steady the cost of living. If, for example, fresh *gari* or fresh yam produced in the Eastern Region could be brought down to Lagos within a few hours, the difference in cost of *gari* between the place where it was produced and Lagos would be negligible, so that the cost of living between Lagos and the Eastern Region would be almost the same. By this process, there would be less agitation for wage differentials arising from cost of living with regard to food-stuffs.

On the question of the location of industries, although many theories and many views have been advanced, the point I would like to drive home to the Ministries of Commerce and Industry and Economic Development is that a dispassionate study of the prevalent factors available in several parts of the country should be carried out, while, at the same time, having some organisation that would objectively direct inquirers who wish to set up industries, to places where their industries could best be sited.

At the moment, we are having an overcrowding of industries in a place like Lagos. Part of the cause of this could be traced to the influence exercised in office by certain of the officials concerned—the small officials. I

[MR AKWIWU] shall cite an example. Sometime last year, some Chinese enterprisers came to this country with a view to establishing a factory in Port Harcourt. When they came to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which of course works in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Development, some officials there confused and convinced these Chinese enterprisers and dragged them to Ikeja to set up their factory.

We are aware of the fact that there must be one Nigeria, but every part of the country must be given a fair chance. A man in an office, where he could influence the location of an industry in this country, should, first and foremost, recognise himself as a Nigerian, and direct anybody making enquiries from him objectively to suitable places. He should not always be influenced by the idea of wanting to have all the industries to be much nearer his back-yard. How many sections in this country can be represented in such an office?

It is very important that there must be some sense of impartiality and objectivity in the Ministries that are responsible for the location of industries. It is high time these small officials who are placed there exercised some degree of fairness.

**Mr D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): Why does the hon. Gentleman call them small officials when they are placed in such a position where they can influence the location of industries?

**Mr Akwivu**: I simply meant that they are, in a sense, not as big as my hon. Friend (*Mr Abii*).

Finally, we have established the Industrial Development Bank. Many a time, we start off with very excellent intentions, but our objectives are not achieved because of the deficiencies in the manner of execution of our plans. We have had this Industrial Loans Board. The first thing that the Board did was to so circumscribe the scope of their operations by their unorthodox definition of 'industry' that many deserving cases were never given any attention.

Now also, we are having this Industrial Development Bank. They have also encumbered themselves by a most unorthodox definition of 'industry'. When I was a student, I was taught the definition of 'industry' as

involving the production of goods and services. In the case of Nigeria, the definition of 'industry' is confined to mean, in effect, the production of highly complicated goods. The result is going to be that the whole thing becomes a closed shop, and by the time you realise where you are, if twenty industries are established, you have certain directors becoming a recurring decimal, because they only know what the thing means. Those who come from overseas wishing to set up industries here would be approached first by these directors, who would preach to them their version of what they mean by 'industry'.

I do hope that this sort of thing will be discouraged. It will be terribly demoralising if the scope of the Industrial Development Bank is so narrowed down only to concern itself with projects costing £2 million or £1½ million or projects that are so complicated that it is impossible for any Nigerian unaided, that is, without being in association with some outside overseas companies, to venture into setting up any industry in this country.

I think this is a very important point that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Economic Development should take up with the Industrial Development Bank. Otherwise, it would end up as a cult for a few select or better privileged gentlemen in the country; if that happened the, objective would have been destroyed. I think something should be done about it.

In my humble view, the fact that it is for Industrial Development should make it necessary to widen its scope to include the production of goods and services—not only goods of a particularly sophisticated or complicated nature, but ordinary goods too. Their feasibility section should be able to examine each application on its merit. If it is one that deserves assistance, they should look into it, but we should not have a situation in which many applications will be rejected out of hand simply because they do not involve the setting up a factory for the production or distillation of gin or the manufacture of railway wagons. I hope these points will be looked into.

Before I resume my seat, I would like to refer to the case of Dr Okigbo in Brussels, which has just been mentioned by an hon. Member. I think it is important that we should avoid this saying that Africa kills her

*House of Representatives Debates*

1601

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

3 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1602

men. One of the ways of killing a good man is to overwork him. As has been stated here, let the Ministry concerned look into it, and if it is true that he is being overworked through lack of staff, everything should be done to ease his burden, so that he can think farther ahead and give us more useful years of his service, and also cover much wider scope.

I beg to support.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East): I rise to contribute to this Head of Estimate. In doing so, I have a few observations and suggestions to make to the Minister of Economic Development. We appreciate the effort of the Minister in particular and that of his Ministry in general.

As a layman, (and I am sure many of us here are laymen who are not economists) I tend to be sometimes impatient about the results of the research being carried out by his Ministry especially with regards to agriculture. Any time we come here we are being told that there is research going on here, there is research into rice production going on at Bida in Northern Nigeria, there is research about palm-oil at such other place, and so on and so forth. I know that researches are experiments. They sometimes yield unsuccessful results. But I think this honourable House should be kept informed of the progress so far made with some of these researches, and in what areas they have been applied.

**Mr Speaker** : This Head has nothing to do with research. We are discussing Head 31, but the hon. Gentleman is discussing Head 30.

**Mr Lar** : I will then turn to another point, but it is very difficult to draw a parallel between these three Ministries—the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Economic Development and Finance—and so in most cases, Members appear to be irrelevant in their speeches when actually they mean to contribute to the subject of debate.

Nigeria is blessed agriculturally and in the way of mineral deposits. Why do we still import certain foods that we have in this country? For example, in the Plateau Province we have plenty of Irish potatoes. I am sure that if the farmers are encouraged by way of finance, they can produce enough Irish potatoes for the people of this country. Recently I visited the Statistics Department and, believe

me, the amount of money that we spend in this country on the importation of potatoes is fantastic. There is no need for us to waste our money in this way. We have potatoes in the Plateau Province; why can we not develop its cultivation instead of wasting money on imported potatoes?

The same thing happens in the case of fish. We have fish in Nigeria and there is no need for us to go about importing dried fish, stockfish or iced fish into this country. We do not need them. We can catch fish in our waters. Fish can be caught at Port Harcourt, around Lagos, in the Lake Tchad, at Sokoto and, in fact, all over the country. There is, therefore, no need for fish to be imported into this country; it is just a mere waste of money.

Speaking in the real sense of economy, there is no need at all to import any type of food into this country. For instance, if one goes to the Kingsway Stores, one will notice that the chickens are classified into local chickens and imported chickens. There is no difference between local chicken and imported chicken. We have been eating our local chickens for some time now and we have been happy with them. In fact, the difference in price between the local chicken and the imported chicken is fantastic. The price of one imported chicken is treble that of a local chicken. Why should this be so when we have our own chickens here? If the expatriates do not want or like our chicken, well, they can go.

This is also the case with imported meat. Why should we import beef or port into Nigeria when we have cattle in the Northern Region? We have enough cattle in the Northern Region to produce sufficient meat for the country. But, as the Deputy Speaker, Mr Akwivu, has already said, the Government should device a means whereby fresh meat could be transported from the North to the South. What happens now is that the animals are starved for about two to three days during their journey from the North to the South, with the result that by the time they get to the South, there is no more flesh left in them, and when they are slaughtered, their meat does not taste as good as the meat of animals slaughtered in the North.

The only way to solve this problem is to have an abattoir where the animals could be



[MR LAR]  
slaughtered and frozen before they are transported either by rail or by road to the South, so that the people in the South may enjoy the fresh meat.

I would now like to talk about the establishment of fruit industries. Nigeria is a tropical country and we have a lot of tropical fruits. We can produce bananas and mangoes, and mangoes could do a lot of good to our economy—we can tin mango fruits and export them to other countries of the world.

Take Tanganyika, for example. Tanganyika has fruit industries and the main fruit used in these industries is mango. In fact, if one goes to shops in European countries, one will find tins of mangoes labelled "made in Tanganyika". Tanganyika is killing two birds with one stone because by selling its fruits abroad, the country is being projected all over the world.

We can also have a timber industry in this country. Whenever I see the logs of wood on the Lagoon I often ask myself one question—why can we not have a timber industry in this country? What happens is that after a piece of wood that costs £1 in Nigeria has been exported to England or to some other country overseas, the finished furniture is imported to Nigeria to sell at five guineas, ten guineas or fifteen guineas. Why can we not produce the furniture in Nigeria when we have got the forest and everything needed? There is no need exporting our timber and when the finished articles are brought back we pay exorbitant prices for them. I do not see any sense in that.

Last year, I filed a private Member's Motion on the establishment of a tourist industry. A tourist industry will help to enhance the economy of this country. All over the world, countries which have tourist industries have been making a lot of money. These industries pay for themselves. There is no need for our people to go overseas to enjoy themselves when we can make use of our own materials here to establish a holiday resort for them.

Not up to a week ago some Members of this Parliament went to Tarkwa Bay to enjoy themselves. A place like the Tarkwa Bay is the sort of place we want developed to something like a holiday resort where people can go occasionally and enjoy themselves.

Also in a place like the Plateau Province are beautiful landscapes which can be improved and made more attractive and beautiful so that tourists from all over the world can go there and enjoy themselves. It is certain that these tourists should pay something in return for the enjoyment and comfort provided for them and in this way more money will be brought into this country. There is no sense in our civil servants and politicians going overseas to spend their leave. Many of them travel as far as to places like London and Paris, and some of them tour the whole of Europe. This is only another source by which money goes out of this country. There is no sense at all in our spending overseas money that can be usefully employed in this country.

In 1962 East Africa made about £70 million from tourist industries. This information I got from the Department of Statistics. I am convinced that Nigeria too can make as much as that if we establish a tourist industry in this country. I do not think there is much fun in our going abroad spending as much money as we do only on tourism.

There is one other point which I would like to make. This may make me unpopular, but I believe the point is worth mentioning and it is a fact that must be faced. When, two years ago, the Minister of Economic Development made an announcement that expatriate firms in this country were going to be asked to withdraw from retail trade, this announcement was welcomed by all Members in this House. The provisions in the announcement were carried out in quite a majority of places. But it has now been discovered that this action does not help our people. Instead of the action being a blessing, it is rather a curse to the people. No sooner the expatriate firms withdrew from retail trading in some places than it was discovered that the shops in such places have been closed down completely. There are no indigenous traders to carry on the trading which hitherto was being done by the firms. The indigenous traders simply have not enough money to establish shops on their own. This, therefore, brings all sorts of sufferings to the people. It has created another period of "dark ages" in some places, and I think the Minister of Commerce and Industry should now reconsider this step. If it be

possible, let the Government finance indigenous businessmen or traders so that they can carry on from where the expatriate firms left off.

The Industrial Bank, at the moment, has made no provisions for the financing of local businessmen, and the expatriate firms in the country refuse to grant them loans. It is my opinion that they are being discriminated against.

In my own constituency, for example, there used to be two well-financed shops owned by the U.A.C. But the moment the announcement was made that expatriate firms should withdraw from retail trading, the U.A.C. closed down these shops and, as a result of this, the people in my area now have to travel about the distance of 110 miles to buy even provisions, and I think it costs them much more money that way. I am therefore appealing to the Minister to please reconsider his stand on this issue. Perhaps the move was a bit premature. If it is, there is no sin in reconsidering it.

Before I conclude my observations, I would like to say that in my opinion the Government is not doing its best to protect the interests of indigenous industries in this country. It would appear that the Government prefers giving loans and other sorts of help to foreign firms than giving such loans to help our local industries. Our indigenous industrialists are not being encouraged at all by our Government. Our indigenous industrialists should be given more protection by the Government.

I beg to support.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Economic Development on the elaborate arrangements he has made for the establishment of industries in this country. Every item of my speech would only be pieces of advice to the hon. Minister. I have no doubt that the Minister has personally toured a lot of other foreign countries and has, in this way, gained a wealth of experience. But I want the Minister to note that his own experience alone cannot guide this country to its ultimate goal of sound economic development. I would like to advise the Minister that whenever he is again going on tour of some foreign

countries, wherever he may be going, he should take along with him some other Members of this House. Members can only subscribe substantially to debates on industrial development when they actually know what they are supposed to talk about, and practical knowledge can help them a great deal towards an intelligent debate. A practical example to illustrate my point was when, this morning, the Member for Awgu North (*Mr D. N. Chukwu*) talked about industries. He actually talked on what he has a good knowledge of and what he has actually put into practice. Some hon. Members just get up without having a good knowledge of what is being debated and contribute to the debate.

**Mr D. D. U. Okay** (Port Harcourt) : On a point of order, it is wrong for the hon. Member to say that some other hon. Members do not know what they are saying. This is wrong. The hon. Member is giving a wrong impression to the outside world.

**Mr V. A. Nwalieji** (Nsukka West) : I would really like to know what is the official language in this House. I thought the official language is English, but I do not understand the language my hon. Friend the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) is speaking.

**Mr Odulana** : Mr Chairman, apart from the little English that I speak, I also speak Yoruba and Ijebu. I do not speak Ibo at all.

**Several hon. Members** : Mr Nwalieji is a Mid-Westerner.

**Mr Odulana** : Poor Mid-Westerner. Mr Chairman, I made my statement with some sense of responsibility. When one speaks on industry one must be able to quote practical examples and to be factual. If one asks some hon. Members what is glass made of and what are the other raw materials used in the making of glass—ordinary drinking glass, tumblers—they may not be able to give satisfactory answers. I have already quoted as an example of how to debate intelligently the way the Member for Awgu North (*Mr Chukwu*) talked on industries in this House this morning. I am only advising the Minister of Economic Development that he should, in his other economic tours, take along with him some hon. Members of this House. I am not in any way pleading for myself. If I want to visit any

[MR ODULANA]

oversea country I can go on my own, and there is hardly any place I have not already been to. I am only talking for some other hon. Members.

I shall quote as an example one of our respected Premiers in one of our Regions who recently undertook a wide tour of various foreign countries including India, U.A.R. and many other places. That Premier is Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Premier of Northern Nigeria. When the Premier was going on this tour he took along with him some other members of his Cabinet and some Members of the Regional House of Assembly in the North to go and see what was going on in India.

We are talking about the establishment of as many industries as possible in this country. We should try and emulate India, which is now an industrialised country. There is no television in India and the Government of India has concentrated all its efforts towards giving job to its people.

We have television now in the East, West and also in the Federal Capital. I do not know the economic benefit that television will bring to us. Television in itself, is not an industry. The money that should be used to provide a lot of things in this country is being used on something that is not productive.

The Minister of Economic Development should find ways and means of sending our people to industrialised countries to learn and see things for themselves. Members of Parliament should be given the opportunity of going to these industrialised countries so that they can see what progress is taking place in these countries. If this is done, Members would be able to advise the Government on what it should do.

When we were considering the Head for the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, I said that quite a lot of our raw materials in this country were being shipped abroad. If raw materials like groundnut oil could be processed in this country, we would get oil which we can export to other parts of the world. Foreign countries can use our palm oil and also the oil extracted from groundnuts and kernels.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema)**: But we do ship palm oil to other parts of the world.

**Mr Odulana**: I know we do that, but do we process oil in this country? We should

start to process oil in this country and this will provide employment for our people, instead of shipping our oil *en bloc* to overseas countries that will take advantage of them.

Some Members have said that they want a fishing industry in this country.

**Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South)**: On a point of order, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (*Mr Lana*) is eating in the House. He should not use this place as a dining room.

**Mr Odulana**: When I said that the Minister of Economic Development should arrange for hon. Members to go with him to industrialised countries to see things for themselves, I was referring to the example laid down by Sir Ahmadu Bello when he toured the United Arab Republic.

Any hon. Member who happens to go to Cairo now will see the gigantic development going on there. This is not the time of King Farouk when rich men had reserved places which were out of bounds to the poor man. During the time of King Farouk, thousands of people died in the street. Cairo is now a "Garden of Eden" and President Nassar has made it so. We want our President, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe and our Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa to make Nigeria another "Garden of Eden" for us.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema)**: Cairo is a town and Nigeria is a country.

**Mr Odulana**: You have not been there; I have been there. It is very easy for Members to cast jokes on something that is very serious. There is hardly anybody in the city of Cairo, or to be precise in the United Arab Republic, who has not got a job to do. If unemployment was about sixty *per cent* there before, it has been reduced to five *per cent* to-day. I do not say that there is no unemployment in the United Arab Republic, but it has been drastically reduced. That is the sort of thing we want Nigeria to emulate.

If many industries are established in this country, our young men and young girls who come out of school every year will get work to do. We do not want our people to be pen-pushers; we want them to go back to the land and also to work in the factories. We want this country to be technically advanced.

This is the job of the Minister of Economic Development. I know that the Minister has toured a lot of countries, but his experience is the experience of one man. When the Minister wants to tour overseas countries again, he should take some Members of this House along with him. When they come back, they will be able to advise the Minister better.

I would like experiment to be made on fish pond. The job of the Ministry of Economic Development is to make researches. If we are going to be practical, we should make experiment with a fish pond not very far from Lagos. I know that we cannot get a fish pond in Lagos, but we can get one at Ikorodu.

The N.B.C. has sited its transmitter in Ikorodu. We should establish an experimental fish pond at Ikorodu; the place is good for it.

Some Members have talked about stock-fish. It is only in Norway that you can get stock-fish. You can have all sorts of fish here, but you cannot have stock-fish. Even if you bring them into our waters, they will not live. So many countries have tried and failed. Until we have our own stock-fish in this country, we shall continue to import stock-fish from Norway.

The Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) comes from the Rivers Area. He is a fisherman and instead of talking about the establishment of a fishing industry in this country, he is talking about affairs that do not concern him. Any time he gets up he talks about the Western Region. He does not know what is happening in the Western Region.

**Mr Briggs** : On a point of order, I expect the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) to address the Chairman. I am not the subject of debate.

**Mr Odulana** : It is very easy for people when they wear coat and trousers to come here and tell us that they are this and that. The Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) comes from a fishing village and his occupation is to catch fish. He has forgotten his duty simply because he went to England to read Law.

**Mr Briggs** : On a point of order, the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) is from a counterfeiting village, but he is now talking about some other things.

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** (Ijebu Central) : On a point of order, I object to the statement made by the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*).

**The Chairman** : Order. If Mr Briggs will stop interrupting Mr Odulana, perhaps he might make very sensible contribution.

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East) : The Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) is not contributing intelligently to this debate. What he is saying amounts to a waste of time.

**The Chairman** : You are wasting our time.

**Mr Odulana** : I would not like to reply the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) now.

Finally, I want the Minister of Economic Development to make individual inquiries about people's knowledge as regards the establishment of industries. I have already mentioned the Member for Awgu North (*Mr D. N. Chukwu*) who we are told is an expert in paint making and other things like that. We have people like him in this country. I know quite a lot of them.

The Minister of Economic Development should invite these people and ask them what they intend to do for this country. Their opinion should be sounded when industries are to be established. I think this country will be greatly benefited by their knowledge. It is only people who do not want to go beyond the length of their nose that talk the way the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) is talking.

**Mr N. E. Elenwa** (Ahoada West) : My point of order is that a man like the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) should be advised that in future, as old as he is, he should go to the Senate and not come to the House of Representatives.

**Mr Odulana** : As long as the Member for Aba Central (*Chief M. W. Ubani*) is still in this House, I am competent to be here because I am not yet sixty years and Chief Ubani is about eighty years now.

I beg to support.

**Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyarma** (Hadejia North) : I wish to contribute to the Debate on Head 30—Economic Development. This is a progressive Ministry, but it still requires some few comments.

[ALHAJI GAUYARMA]

Some time ago in this honourable House, Members had an opportunity to speak on our Development Programme. While it is true that each Ministry controls its share of our development schemes, it is more true that the Ministry of Economic Development co-ordinates the programmes of the respective Ministries. Though the Minister's efforts have proved successful in all aspects of this Ministry—efforts which won for him much congratulations—yet, I am not happy about the way in which scholarship awards for training are processed by this Ministry.

A country like Australia grants us technical aid, technical assistance. The Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Finance accept this technical aid and convert it into cash. Then a candidate is chosen and he leaves for Australia to undergo training. What happens next is that the Ministry of Establishments will step in and say that the training will not count for promotion. What, then, is the value of the training? Must our people be trained only in the United Kingdom before we promote them?

I want to say on the Floor of this honourable House that we in Nigeria cherish our long association with Britain. But I also want to say that in the field of technology, Britain does not compare favourably with other leading nations to-day.

Sometime last year, the Minister of Economic Development went to the United States of America on a negotiation tour. It was surprising to hear that an American businessman whom I met was not happy about some Advisers who went on that trip with the Minister. He frankly told me that one of the senior officials on the trip did not know much about Economics. On asking the man, he admitted that he was in the Ministry on administrative duties and that he was qualified for a post in another Ministry. This is a shame!

The point is that although we must not discuss civil servants in this House, there are some Ministries in which Advisers should be experts. Some of these Ministries are Finance, Education and Economic Development. I am not sure that the Minister was properly advised on that trip to America, and, I think, he himself knows.

There is also the question of duplication in the establishment of industries. Does the

Minister co-ordinate through the National Planning Board the efforts of his respective colleagues in the Regions? Are there not some avenues of united efforts for common objectives?

In this respect, I wish it were possible for the Minister to make a statement on what progress we have made in the Six-Year Development Programme. I want also to hear that the Minister will accept experts from everywhere in the world, and not only from those who give us aid and come here to earn big salaries as supervisors from the aid they give us.

I am sure that I am not the only one who sees our Economic Development Programme in this light. I hope it will be possible for us at this stage to take stock of our progress.

With these comments, I congratulate the Minister and his Ministry on the achievements of the Federal Government has so far made.

I beg to support.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central) : I have only a few words to say on this Head. The point I want to make is about this very important question of the concentration of industries, and the way the industries are sited in Nigeria. I know that in the question of siting of industries, the Regions and the Federal Government are autonomous. The Regional Governments can site their industries wherever they like and the same thing applied to the Federal Government.

**Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa** (Benin West) : On a point of order, when my hon. Friend rose up to speak, he said he had a few words on this Head. He has spoken more than a few words already.

**The Chairman** : All those words looked as though he was discussing on the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

**Mr Muojeke** : Though the Regions have the right to site their industries wherever they like and the Federal Government can do the same thing in respect of the industries over which it has control, it is very important, in the national interest that there must be a sort of co-ordination in the siting of industries, not only for strategic reasons but also for economic reasons.

In some places you see that some ports and some towns have what I may describe as a

House of Representatives Debates

1613

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

3 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1614

monopoly of industries. I want to be specific and to refer to Lagos and Port Harcourt where large industries are concentrated. Every investor that comes into this country, if he goes to the Federal Government to ask for advice as to where an industry could be sited will be asked to go to Port Harcourt or to Lagos, and when I talk of Lagos, I mean Ikeja and the areas around it. For strategic reasons this is, bad. I do not pray for war but in the event of war; for example we would discover how dangerous it is to concentrate our industries in one area; a blast of bomb could destroy the whole thing.

As I have said, not only should they be scattered for strategic reasons but also for the economy of the nation. It is good for the industries to be diversified. Diversification of industries is one of the reasons why industrial projects are made. You send the industries some time to the rural places and at another time, to the towns. Let us take the industries to the people.

If we concentrate industries in one port, it means that we shall be drawing people away from their home towns to the port. Not only that: when the industries are eventually developed to a point there would follow in that wake of development, high cost of rent for the industries and high cost of wages. All these overhead costs would then be passed on to the consumers with the result that our finished products, the domestic products, would be in many cases dearer than the imported ones. But if we take industries to some places where labour is cheap, it will be reflected in the price of the product with the result that our infant industries can be patronised by the Government because their goods are cheap and also patronised by the masses because they can buy them more conveniently than the imported goods. When the domestic goods are dearer than the imported ones, you cannot convince the man in the street, no matter how patriotic he is, to spend more money on them simply because they are home-made.

So as far as the concentration of industries in some towns is concerned, I ask the Government to look into it and take industries to, at least, a place where one hon. Member mentioned in the morning and to other places where the raw materials for the finished products can be obtained. We should take

industries not only to where the raw materials are found but also to places where the people have the natural talent and where there is the technical skill.

We all know that there is a sort of specialisation. Some people are more gifted in some handicrafts than others. Where we find this, it is the duty of the Government to exploit such talents by taking industries to any Region where particular talents are in existence.

I refer to the question of iron foundry and smithing. We know that Awka people can manufacture fine materias like doors, gates, *et cetera*. They are specialists in this respect and I think that if the Government can take the iron foundry to Awka, the people will perfect their skills to such an extent that the finished products would be much better and cheaper than the imported ones.

I most respectfully ask the Minister to take this matter into serious consideration, because we may derive immense benefits from exploiting the talents with which Awka people are blessed.

There is another point I want to touch on before I sit down. This is on the question of trying to induce our people, no matter where they are, to help not only the Regional Governments but the Federal Government in the task of building industries.

I have in mind the question of capital formation in this country. In this task, everybody, no matter how small, no matter how big, no matter how elevated, can play a very decisive part by saving as much as he can and trying to invest it in any lucrative venture.

The Government can inculcate in our people the habit of thrift and saving. It is very, very essential. No nation has ever built up its industrial status to an advanced stage without the people themselves bearing the greater brunt of the task of economic development. We must save and such savings must be channeled into productive investments. The Government can do this through savings campaigns and by proper education. This is also very important.

I beg to support the Head.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central): In supporting this Head I would only like to make a few remarks. First, as much as we like to see that this country is industrialised, and

[M. IBRAHIM GUSAU]

economically prosperous, I think the Minister of Economic Development, as dynamic as he is, will be failing in his duties once he fails to get full co-operation from Ministries such as the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Mines and Power and the Ministry of External Affairs, to mention but a few.

This Ministry is the only co-ordinating machinery where all efforts could be formulated together in order to have a common goal.

The Minister may be dynamic and enthusiastic, yet, so long as he fails to get the full co-operation that he deserves, we will not have the fruits of his enthusiasm. A few years ago he tabled on the Floor of this House a *White Paper* on the Six-Year Development Programme.

During this Session of Parliament, he produced a Progress Report on the same Programme. One can see that wherever we have failed, there must be lack of co-operation either from the Ministry of Finance, Commerce and Industry, External Affairs, or from the Ministry of Mines and Power.

One can see that these Ministries are responsible for tapping the resources which are available in this country. Nigeria is gifted and blessed with human, agricultural and mineral resources. I think there is no reason whatsoever which one can think of why we should fail in our economic growth. If the resources from abroad are limited or not as favourable as we expected, I think that if we pull a concerted effort here at home, we can achieve a lot.

A Member of Parliament spoke here a few minutes ago about some of the resources which we have in this country. Fish and meat are examples of what we have in large quantity in this country. If there is a concerted effort from the various Ministries in co-operation with the Ministry of Economic Development, I do not think that we will only be talking about local consumption in this field.

I see no reason why Nigeria cannot export fish and meat to other countries. It is unfortunate to see that both fish and meat are imported into this country whereas we have them in abundance in fact we have more than we can consume.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East) : On a point of order. I quote Order 31 (1), Sir :

*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 "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.*

Sir, some of us are anxious to talk on the next Head and I therefore claim to move, That the Question be now put.

**The Chairman** : Order, order. While I appreciate that we have discussed this Head for quite a length of time, still I feel that we might allow one or two speeches before we put the Question.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** : As I was saying, if there is full co-operation from the Ministries, I am quite sure that we could export fish and meat from Nigeria. I am glad that the Minister of Economic Development has mentioned in one of his statements that the economic programme is so national that if any Region fails to give its own report, such Region will find itself isolated. The national programme of the country is so interwoven that the Regional Governments give their full co-operation towards our economic development. As I said, the Federal Ministries concerned do not give full co-operation as the Regional Governments seem to give.

I therefore urge the Minister to see to it that we contemplate an idea of exporting meat and fish. I would like to inform Members that we have plenty of fish in the Rivers Area, in the Lake Chad and in the Sokoto Province. Members of this Parliament, no doubt, read from newspapers that in Sokoto there is one important place called Argungu Division. There is plenty of fish in this Division. So, I think the Minister should give encouragement to the fish industry, particularly the one at Argungu and Lake Chad. If the fish industry is encouraged, it will not only cater for the local consumption but also for export purposes.

In the North, we have plenty of cattle, some of which are being imported here. I hope encouragement would be given to meat industry so that we can export it. I think it would be a profitable venture.

I want the Minister to see to it that these two things do not only cater for our local consumption, but for export as well.

I think it is wrong to confine ourselves to major industries in respect of our economic development. There are small industries which are of the greatest value both to Nigeria and to the outside world. If these small industries are encouraged, they can produce a lot of articles to help our resources. For instance, hides and skins constitute a local industry. I am sure everybody knows that red goat in Sokoto is regarded as the best in the world. This business brings a lot of money from abroad. I would like the Minister to see that this useful industry which is situated in Sokoto is encouraged.

We understand that due to lack of encouragement, the price of hides and skins has, in recent years, been reduced from the world market. I therefore ask the Minister to give a helping hand so that this useful industry may help in the development of this nation.

It seems as if the Ministry of Economic Development could not care less about the change of atmosphere in agriculture in certain parts of this country. A few years ago, I spoke in this House about the encroachment of desert. A year ago, the situation of the desert changed to an extent that not only the Regional Governments should assume the responsibility of clearing the desert, but the Federal Government should take part in it. I refer to a place in Sokoto called Gwadabawa. Two years ago, it was a semi-desert, but now it is a semi-swamp area. It changed dramatically in a way we did not expect.

**An hon. Member :** How did it change ?

**M. Ibrahim Gusau :** Artesian water came up and the place is now completely flooded. I urge the Minister of Economic Development to consider this area and to give them a helping hand in order that certain crops could be planted there. If we can plant some crops in this area, it will help our country a great deal.

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** (Ijebu Central) : Knowing, as I do, that Rome was not built in a day, I would not be doing justice to our hon. Minister of Economic Development if I do not give him a word of praise that I sincerely believe he serves. He is dynamic, frank and courageous. But this cannot lead us to the place where we wish to reach, as has been rightly pointed out by the last speaker. The Ministry of Economic Development must receive the co-operation of all the Ministries.

The Ministry of Economic Development is the live-wire of the country. The Minister is to co-ordinate the activities of all the Ministries together. But if his Colleagues in the Council of Ministers do not give him the right co-operation, I do not think he can do much. On this, I would like to say, in fairness to our hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry that he is equally courageous, bold and frank. These two Ministries cannot achieve their objectives without receiving the co-operation they rightly deserve from all other Ministries.

For purposes of explanation, I would like to take the Ministry of Communication as an example. Letters take as much as ten days within the township to reach their destinations. How do we expect the business to go on ? This is part of the responsibility of the Minister of Economic Development. Take the case of the Ministry of Labour as the second example. We are complaining to-day that we want increase in wages and salaries. But when is the Government going to institute an inquiry on our productivity ? I think the country needs to know whether the salaries we are paying to these workers are commensurate with what they are producing.

The same thing goes for the Ministry of Establishments. I sincerely believe that efficiency is lacking in our service to-day. Some of the clerks in the offices go to the toilet to smoke cigarettes. We must first of all solve this problem if we want our economic development to go in the way we want. Certainly, the Minister is not himself going to watch the clerks who go to the toilet to smoke. Somebody must be assigned to perform the task. The Minister of Establishments should be able to explain to this honourable House what is happening to efficiency in our Civil Service to-day.



[CHIEF OKUNOWO]

I will now go to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Hon. Members may be wondering why I have mentioned Internal Affairs. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has something to do with our economic development. There are many expatriates in this country to-day whom I may call parasites. They enter this country by telling the Ministry of Internal Affairs that they are going to invest some money in this country, but they invest nothing. All they do is to deprive the people of this country of the opportunities they should enjoy. I think the time has come when the Ministry of Internal Affairs must of necessity try to check up what these people are doing in this country.

Although hon. Members keep on appealing to the Federal Government to establish more industries in this country, I have evidence to prove that even in the industries the Federal Government have established there is discrimination in prices when these industries offer their goods to businessmen. The big firms are offered a different price from the one offered to Nigerian businessmen. The question is how can we compete effectively with these big firms? It is very surprising that there should be discrimination in prices even in goods manufactured in our own country. We could understand if this happened when we were ordering most of our goods from overseas. We knew then that the firms overseas offered special prices to the big concerns and a different price to Nigerian businessmen. But it is unbelievable that this can happen now that we produce these goods in our country. The Minister of Economic Development should institute an inquiry and see that there is no discrimination against Nigerian businessmen in this country.

The Ministry of Transport cannot be left out of our Economic Development. There is always very great delay at Apapa Wharf in the collection of goods. In the first place, lorries can only go to Apapa once in a day due to the constant traffic congestion on Apapa Road everyday. It is even very difficult to get clearance at the sheds. The Minister of Transport should see to it that goods are delivered to traders as soon as they arrive. There is always too much delay at the sheds.

As I said earlier on, I would like the Minister of Economic Development to tell all the expatriate businessmen in this country to declare their mission in this country, either collectively or individually. These expatriates come to this country under the guise that they have somemoney to invest in this country, and they do not invest a penny. What they do is to go to established businessmen and tell the managers that they have some goods to offer. Once they get their money they send it home and bring other goods. They do not invest in any business in this country. Nigerian businessmen are capable of handling the retail trade in Nigeria and there is no need for any expatriate firms to come and rob us of our trade.

Several hon. Members have spoken on this issue. I listened to the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) a few minutes ago when he made reference to business in this country being mixed with politics. I do not believe in insinuation, but on an important subject like our economic development I think I must sound a note of warning. I heard an hon. Member who happens to be a schoolmaster by profession, asked a few minutes ago that the Government should stop allowing politics to affect our business. I do not know of any important matter to be discussed in this House other than the economy of this country because, if we do not give economic development the time it deserves, I think we will not be doing justice to the subject.

May I appeal to the Minister of Economic Development to put the right peg in the right hole. There is no wisdom in asking a teacher to come and discuss matters relating to the economy of this country. The Minister should remember that the hood does not make the monk.

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (Ibarapa): On a point of order, hon. Members who are teachers know about everything, and teachers can educate the masses about the economy of this country. The Member for Ijebu Central (*Chief Okunowo*) is just a business tycoon; teachers are the people who educate the people.

**Chief Okunowo**: I am speaking from experience.

House of Representatives Debates

1621

[Appropriation (1964-65)

3 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1622

If I can give an example. Some years ago, a teacher like the hon. Member for Ibarapa (*Mr Gbolagunte*) wanted to buy some cigarettes for sale from the Nigeria Tobacco Company. Instead of buying the cigarettes that the man in the street smokes, he went and bought Craven "A" which is only smoked by people on top—the Ministers and big businessmen. What the man in the street smokes is "Pirate" cigarette.

**Mr Gbolagunte** : The hon. Member cannot teach me.

**Chief Okunowo** : I am not teaching the hon. Member, I am only advising him for the future. This is the type of businessman who will go and buy the type of expensive materials that the majority of the people do not buy.

May I remind the Minister of Economic Development that we have matured and experienced businessmen in this country. I refer to a man like Senator Chief Odutola. Senator Chief Odutola is a man we cannot brush aside when we discuss commerce in this country. We also have people like Sir Odumegwu Ojukwu in the East and many other big businessmen in the country. When there is a business discussion, I will appeal to the Minister not to go by the degrees of the men appointed, whether B.A., B.C.L., M.Sc., or D.D. These degree men have their own place, they are not businessmen. The real businessmen are the people who are buying and selling; they know when to order goods and what to do with goods that they do not sell. The businessmen know, for example, that when the Moslems are fasting they sell less bread. These are the people the Government should call upon to advise them. The Minister should not say that because somebody has got a big car or a big turban he is a good businessman. People have their own different fields of specialisation. We know that in the North we have experienced businessmen, like Alhaji Dantata, who are really good. The Government should not appoint people to advise them because they belong to the N.P.C. or the N.C.N.C. If the Government is after the prosperity of this country, it must choose the right people who will be able to give this country sound business advice.

In the East, I understand the Deputy Speaker, Mr Akwivu is now a very good businessman. There is no harm in appointing

people like Mr Akwivu to advise the Government. Although he is a legal practitioner, but I think he has given up his wig and gown to join the band of businessmen.

I beg to support.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : On a point of order, I have not given up my wig and gown. If the Member for Ijebu South (*Chief Okunowo*) wants me to defend his interest tomorrow in court, I will do so.

**The Minister of Economic Development** (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim) : Some of the remarks by hon. Members deal with Agriculture and Forestry, and I am not going to reply to those points until we come to their respective Heads.

Having listened to hon. Members, I have found that they have all been talking, directly or indirectly, about one or other of the following economic problems of this country. Members have spoken about wholesale and retail trades. These are linked with banking because unless there is a good banking system ready to assist indigenous businessmen, it would be impossible to Nigerianise the wholesale or retail trades.

This problem is directly connected with the fact that in this country the banks belong to foreigners and naturally they, first of all, safeguard the interest of their expatriate colleagues in business. Therefore the Nigerian businessman, no matter how vast his experience and how tested his integrity, does not get the same encouragement which could enable him to grow. Our first problem then is how to solve this problem of banking.

How are we going to have sufficient banking facilities extended to our businessmen? This, of course, is not easy since we have not got our State banks. The easiest way is to have indigenous banks owned by either the State or the people. Then all the necessary encouragement can be given to our people. Without this, it is impossible to assist the indigenous people to grow in their business.

All the big expatriate firms who sell or participate in the wholesale or retail trade and who have huge sums of money to invest in industries built up their capital through the retails and wholesale trade in this country by selling sugar, salt, shoes, bicycles and motor

[ALHAJI IBRAHIM]

cars, and the profits they obtained from such sales have been accumulated through the years. They still continue to take part.

If we are to get real economic freedom, we must see to it that the sources through which wealth can be accumulated by private businessmen are placed at the disposal of the businessmen who are our own people, or we completely transfer these to them. These sources, apart from the wholesale and retail trade, include insurance business. That is to say that we must see to it that insurance business is done very successfully by our people. Unless we do this, all talk of economic freedom is really meaningless. We can talk for as long as possible, but our businessmen, especially the private businessmen, will remain poor and their conditions will not improve.

Agencies of manufactured goods must be successfully transferred to our people. We must do that sooner or later because anything short of this will not bring economic freedom which we so much want.

Land transport must also be the exclusive monopoly of our people. I have said it repeatedly in this House that I have never seen any Nigerian doing transport, retail or wholesale business in any part of the world. In all parts of the world it is the indigenous people who do these types of trades, and Nigeria cannot be made an exception. So, without fear or favour or hesitation, one thing we must do is to see that we transfer these businesses to our people.

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East) : It is my view that if the Minister is of that mind, then the Government should take steps towards it. In this country, the Armels' Transport Company is still running the Government mails. If, in fact, the Government wishes to do what the Minister is saying, they should start with this company.

**Alhaji Aminu Kano** (Kano East) : While I very much appreciate what the Minister is telling us about Nigerians taking over the transport system in the country, I hope he will, in winding up, stress the importance of efficiency by Nigerians.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : While I agree with my hon. Friend, the Member for Kano East (*Alhaji Aminu Kano*), I think the Minister should ensure that right now,

when a lot of investments are going on, Nigerians who have the necessary organisation and ability must be given the preference, and not the Asiatics who are pushing Nigerians around and taking advantage of our inaction.

**Mr U. O. Ayeni** (Afenmai North West) : I am not sure hon. Members know that the Armels' Transport Company is not a paying concern these days. They have very strong rivals in and keen competition from Akwivu and other transport owners.

The only transport facility we have in the rural areas is the Armels, and if we are going to abolish it, those of us from the rural areas will protest.

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** (Ijebu Central) : The last speaker has not submitted the statement of account of the Armels' Transport Company, and in view of this, what he has said should not be taken seriously.

**Mr Akwivu** : Whether some of us get to know the balance sheets of these Lebanese and Middle East transport companies or not, we cannot tell. But we must give the Nigerians a fair and equal chance.

**Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa** (Benin West) : In support of what my hon. Friend, the Member for Afenmai North West (*Mr Ayeni*) said, the Armels Transport Company is one of the best organised and efficient transport systems in the whole of the country, and we should think of what it has done and the number of people it has employed among our people.

We in Benin, where the headquarters of Armels is situated are particularly grateful to this expatriate organisation, and we sincerely wish to encourage it.

**Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim** : If Members ask me what our economic problems are, in a nutshell, I will say that they are ; firstly, that the buying and selling of our products, that is retail and wholesale trade, is not in the hands of our indigenous people, but it is necessary that it should be.

The second point is that banking is not in indigenous hands. It should be in indigenous hands. Insurance Agencies of the different articles imported or locally produced and land transport all should be in indigenous hands.

House of Representatives Debates

1625

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

3 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1626

Then we should have some control over the ocean transport of goods coming into our country and going out to other parts of the world. Next, we should have an efficient system of marketing our produce so that we can eliminate the Commissioned Brokers in England who have enriched themselves very much during the years they have handled our produce. If we are able to solve these problems, then I think half of our economic problems shall have been solved.

I attach great importance to these sections of business because there is no other way by which the indigenous businessman can grow. If he does not grow, investment in industries will continue to be done by either the Government or foreign interests. So we must now concern ourselves with the problem of how to enrich the thousands of small businessmen in the country who have not made much progress in their business, not because they are inefficient, not because they are not honest, but because they have to work against the expatriate monopolists. They cannot compete against the big firms who have built up huge capital over the years.

If we protect our people, if possible by legislation, and also give them credit facilities, short and long terms, nothing will stop them from growing to the strength to which the U.A.C. has grown or the Leventis, the G.B. Ollivant and the P.Z. have grown. All these firms grew from very little capital and Nigerians worked for them. Therefore, the question of efficiency is simple. It is Nigerians who have worked to build up these big companies. If there is capital and we give enough capital to businessmen whose integrity and efficiency have been tested, the same Nigerian clerks and managers will do the work. Therefore efficiency will not suffer at all.

Of course, we all know that when we actually talk about our problems and do very little in solving them the reason is the existence of very strong foreign interests in the country. They are so effective, so influential, that they can turn the same Member of Parliament who talks about economic development to talk and defend them in this House. You can see the problem.

We talk of economic freedom and ask what the Government is doing about this and so on. Then the next minute we find somebody

who definitely—I do not blame him of course—has got some interests connected with the big firms getting up to say this and that; that our people cannot do that themselves. So you can see how difficult the problem is.

I think that is the meaning of this word neo-colonialism. This means political independence without economic freedom. That is what it means. Neo-colonialism also means the art of exploiting people economically after having granted them political independence. And that is our problem.

But it is not our fault because once somebody is under the control of these foreign people and foreign firms they have no sympathy for him. Let nobody misunderstand that. They are the same people who came to this country seventy to hundred years ago. Their main concern is the profit they make. If they seize your lorry, which you bought on hire-purchase and paid all the money but fifty pounds, and sell it, they are not concerned about the inconvenience to which they have put you. That is not their interest. What they want is to get their money and make the maximum possible profit. The question of sympathy is not in their dictionary. They are here to get the maximum profit they can. So you can see the size of the big problem.

Again, these firms are so accustomed to making very big profits that they want to maintain these big profits. As a result, the high prices of articles talked about by some Members occur.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : On a point of order, a *jeun jeun* chief has just walked into the House in the person of the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*).

**Professor Kalu Ezera** : The Member speaking should be charged with negligence of duty. He has not been in this House since the morning. My dress as I wear it shows a war lord. I protect not only the Ministers but the whole House.

**The Chairman** : We do not like *jeun jeun* points of Order.

**Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim** : I was just saying that of the many economic problems we have, one is the question of the high prices of imported

[ALHAJI IBRAHIM]

articles sold by the big firms. As I said, these firms are so accustomed to the big profits they have been enjoying and a return on their capital which they can never get in any other part of the world that it is difficult for us to improve the condition of our people while they stick to maintaining these high prices.

The Member for Ijebu South (*Mr A. F. Odu-lana*) spoke about economic development in the United Arab Republic. He spoke of the spectacular achievement of that country. He has suggested that in Nigeria we should do the same.

The answer to this, of course, is that there are about three different systems of economic development. There is the free enterprise system such as the one we follow here in Nigeria and which we all agree is the best for this country. Then there is the socialist system, and that is the one the United Arab Republic practices. And, lastly, there is the extremely socialist system, and that is the communist system. So there are three systems, and the speeds of progress under the three systems are not the same. Each one, perhaps, has its own advantages.

Under the system we follow, the free enterprise, it is a democratic one, that is to say it is free for everybody. It gives banking encouragement to the businessmen as banking is important because no organisation can ever grow without credit facility, either long or short term credit facility, from a Bank. So, under our own system, giving all the necessary encouragement, the individual can grow and the economy can grow.

Now, the other system which is not our own does not allow private ownership. The State owns the Banks, factories, shops, and so on. Well, this is a system which is different from our own, and if it is true that a very quick result can be achieved from that system then we must know that we cannot do anything about it because we do know that our system has its advantages. I do not know which is which. There is no doubt about our system having its own advantages. Therefore, we should not compare ourselves with the countries which follow different systems. They have reasons to follow their own systems, and we have our own reasons to follow our system, because we believe in our own system.

Therefore, I think that even though we admit, and there is no doubt about it, that the United Arab Republic has made spectacular progress, we should at the same time realise the fact that our economic system is not the same as their own.

Now, the question of siting of industries was mentioned by the Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivwu*) and the Member for Ibarapa (*Mr Gbolagunte*). I think industries are sited where there is a ready electricity supply and where there is satisfactory and good transport facility which can lead to all parts of the country, and, possibly the place should be near the ports so that heavy equipments for the industries do not have to travel long distances and so on. I think these are the main reasons why industries are, for example, centred around Lagos. I think, therefore, that it is difficult to allocate the establishment of industries all over the country because that would bring the question of how to get cheap electricity into the matter. Private electricity plants would be very expensive, and would not pay. So, I think these are the main problems.

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** (Ijebu Central) : On a point of explanation, am I to understand from the hon. Minister that I have got to go back to my constituency and tell the people there that because there is no electricity and water supply industries cannot be sited in my constituency ?

**Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim** : No. One would not do that because one's people know that Nigeria is one country, and if one makes them to understand this point very clearly they will know that development in any part of Nigeria is just the same.

Now, just one point before I sit down, and that is the question of the Ministry of Economic Development getting the co-operation of other Ministries. I am very pleased with the co-operation which exists between my Ministry and all Federal Ministries, and the co-operation which exists between the Federal Government and the Regional Governments. We have a Joint Planning Committee which meets regularly to co-ordinate the economic activities of the country. So, we are happy with the co-operation among ourselves and between us and the Regional Governments.

I am sorry that I have no time to reply to all the points raised by other Members of this honourable House, and, so, I beg to support.

£621,320 for Head 30—Ministry of Economic Development—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 31.—AGRICULTURE (RESEARCH)

Question proposed, That £319,900 for Head 31—Agriculture Research—stand part of the Schedule.

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu): On a point of order, it is now 11.47, and the Chairman should have interrupted the Business of the House at 11.45. With your permission, Sir, I shall read Standing Order 5 (2) and (3):

(2) *On Fridays and Saturdays the House shall meet at 9 a.m. and if not previously adjourned shall sit until noon.*

(3) *Fifteen minutes before the time appointed for the termination of a sitting Mr Speaker shall interrupt the business under discussion and unless the closure is moved its resumption shall be appointed for such day as the Member in charge of such business shall name, and if the House shall be in committee at that time the Chairman shall interrupt the business and unless the closure is moved shall leave the chair forthwith to report progress to the House and ask their leave to sit again on such day as the Member in charge of the business shall name.*

**The Chairman**: I think there is a lot to be said either way. On Fridays and Saturdays the House shall meet at nine and so on until the moment of interruption. On the other hand we may argue that Fridays and Saturdays are regarded as one allotted day and as such can together be treated as a full day, and debate could continue until the end of the day, that is twelve o'clock. But I suppose that for the convenience of the House it is more appropriate to report progress and sit again on Saturday.

*And it being 11.45 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Committee report Progress—to sit again, Tomorrow.*

## ADJOURNMENT

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

### PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL REPORT

**Mr S. A. Babatunde** (Ilorin Central): I want the Minister of Information to tell this House why there have been delays in the printing of the Parliamentary Debates since we started this Session. In my opinion, there is nothing good left that the Federal Government has not done for the Printing Division of the Ministry of Information. The normal thing was for our Debates to be ready for correction and so on the morning following the day on which speeches were made, but now several times we did not even get our *Hansard*.

I want this matter to be taken seriously by the Minister of Information. It is unfortunate to note that it is now that we have our brother Nigerian at the head of the Department that we have all these irregularities.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information** (Mr S. A. Yerokun): At the request of the Government of the Mid-Western Nigeria and on consultation with the Federal Public Service Commission, nine officers of the Printing Division of the Federal Ministry of Information were transferred to the Mid-Western Nigeria to assist that Government in the setting up of its Printing Press.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi** (Afenmai East): On a point of order, this announcement has been made by the Minister of Finance once. How many times are we going to listen to this type of announcement?

**Mr Yerokun**: If the Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi*) is patient and can only wait until I have finished my speech perhaps he will learn a little lesson.

Following the transfer of the nine officers, five members of the Printing Division who had wished to be transferred to the Mid-Western Nigeria but were not allowed to do so because of the exigency of the Federal Service, tendered resignations and paid their respective monthly salaries in lieu of notice. As a result of the action by the five officers, all of whom held important posts in the Printing Division, it was

[MR YEROKUN]

not possible to print and to publish the Parliamentary Debates of the 31st of March, 1964, according to schedule. In fact, distribution of copies of the Parliamentary Debates was delayed by about twenty-four hours.

This is much regretted. Steps have been taken to ensure that future publications of the Parliamentary Debates are according to schedule.

SUBSTITUTE HONOUR FOR QUEEN'S COUNSEL

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu): The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice should make a statement on the following.

Now that the title of Queen's Counsel has been abolished, is there any indigenous rank or title envisaged for honouring or distinguishing lawyers on the basis of legal distinction, high academic efforts and long professional experience? Is the Attorney-General aware that such a system will promote effort, industry and intellectual research among our lawyers; and is he aware that this is compatible with the traditional hierarchy of leadership in the profession and that it would also lead to the enforcement of respect in the profession?

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** (Dr T. O. Elias): This matter was fully considered by the Nigerian Bar Association at its conference held at Ibadan on November 29 and 30 respectively, when a resolution

was passed asking that the rank of Queen's Counsel be abolished; that nobody should use the letters Q.C. after his name and that no equivalent rank or title should be created. This was later considered by the General Council of the Bar for Nigeria which met on January 25, 1964, and accepted the first two recommendations.

The third one was further considered because there were many members of the Council who felt that the Bar Association should be given a second chance to look into the matter more closely and reconsider its position before a final decision is taken as to whether an equivalent rank should be created or not. In the course of the debate on that subject we made reference to what obtains elsewhere and the practice in India was also considered where senior members of the Bar are usually appointed as Senior Advocates if they have a minimum qualification of ten years standing at the Bar.

This matter is therefore still under consideration by the Bar Association and as soon as the next conference takes a final decision I shall take steps to make a further announcement to the House.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*, That this House do now adjourn.

*Adjourned accordingly at two minutes to twelve noon.*

House of Representatives Debates

1633

[Business Statement]

4 APRIL 1964

[Appropriation (1964-65) Bill]

1634

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Saturday, 4th April, 1964

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS STATEMENT

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to make the following Business Statement for the week ending 11th April, 1964:—

On Monday, 6th April, the Committee of Supply will sit for the Third Allotted Day. The Second Reading and remaining stages of the Nurses and Midwives Bill will also be taken.

Private Members business will occupy the time until 6 p.m. next Tuesday and at a night sitting the Committee of Supply will sit for the Fourth Allotted Day.

Wednesday, 8th, is the Fifth Allotted Day for the Committee of Supply.

Thursday, 9th, is the Sixth Allotted Day for the Committee of Supply.

Friday and Saturday together constitute the Seventh Allotted Day for the Committee of Supply but for the convenience of hon. Members the Committee will sit late on Friday and on Saturday morning we will take the Second Reading and other stages of the Navy Bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**Mr D. N. Chukwu** (Awgu North): I was misquoted by the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation last night in the report of the proceedings of this House that I said during the debate on the Ministry of Economic Development that the Premier of the Eastern Region, Dr M. I. Okpara, contacted me after the West German engineers failed to find a good deposit of clay in the Region.

What I really said was that when the engineers failed to find a good deposit of white clay the Minister of Commerce, Eastern

Region, Chief the hon. Nwodo, contacted me and I discovered within twenty-four hours a good quantity of white clay required and handed it over to the engineers and that that brought about the siting of a ceramic industry at Umuahia.

I was trying to press home that it is the availability of raw material that would dictate where an industry should be sited as it should not be sited as an educational institution as many people think it should be done.

ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1964-65) BILL

[SECOND (CONTINUED) ALLOTTED DAY]:

CONSIDERED

IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Progress: HEAD 31—AGRICULTURE

*Question proposed, That £319,900 for Head 31—Agriculture—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai** (Dambatta): In rising to support the expenditure on this Head, I should like, in the first place, to congratulate the Minister of Economic Development for the interest he always shows in the development of our economy and, particularly, in the field of agricultural research. The Minister's sincere and frank statement yesterday shows clearly that he is a true nationalist and that he is a Nigerian who always puts the interest of the country first and foremost in his life. He has also proved himself to be the type of Minister Nigeria would like to retain for ever in the Federal Government. We have full and implicit confidence in our Minister of Economic Development and he should rest assured that his services in the Federal Government are appreciated by all the Members of this House.

It is true that Nigeria is in danger economically, for we are being besieged and encircled by neo-colonialists and unless something is done now we shall one day wake up—

**Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh**: On a point of order, I was thinking all the time that my Friend, the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai*), Government Whip, is a neo-colonialist.



**Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai :** If I am a neo-colonialist then the Minister of Finance is a pure imperialist.

Unless something is done we shall one day wake up and find our economy shipwrecked by these timid and discontented elements. So, I rely upon the Minister to co-operate with his colleagues to see that all our economic problems are solved.

According to our Constitution, agriculture is a regional matter but all the same the Federal Government can do a lot in the field of research. Already, the Regional Governments are doing their best to improve the system of farming in this country and I think I will be failing in my duty if I do not pay a very high and glowing tribute to the Northern Nigeria Government for its relentless effort in modernising our agriculture in Northern Nigeria and, particularly in Dambatta, Kano Emirate, my own constituency. I am proud to say that Dambatta now produces comparatively more groundnuts than any other area in the whole country.

It is also gratifying to note that the North Regional Government and the Kano Native Authority are spending thousands of pounds on various types of farm work, such as wheat irrigation and rice cultivation.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): On a point of order, while I appreciate talking of what the Regional Government has done towards improving agriculture, may I remind my hon. Friend that this is not a Regional House. Let him speak of what the Federal Government will do to help the Regional Governments to accelerate the work of agriculture.

**The Chairman :** Perhaps it will be more courteous to hear the hon. Member a little bit more.

**Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai :** Thank you, Mr Chairman. Although this is not a Regional House, yet agricultural research is not being conducted in this House, nor is it being conducted in the Federal Territory of Lagos, but it is being done in the Regions.

Although the wheat irrigation scheme is at its initial stage it is rather expensive. I do feel that a lot of money will have to be spent mainly on labour and watering. But in the

long run it pays. Therefore, in view of the keen interest the people of Dambatta have in modern agriculture, I am appealing to the Federal Government to make more research so that the people will benefit immensely in the field of agriculture. I want the Federal Government to improve and expand agricultural research to the furthestmost part of Dambatta District so that the people there may grow wheat, more rice, more sugar-cane, and so on. If this is done, it is no exaggeration to say that the people of Dambatta will be the richest in the whole country.

**Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh :** Does the hon. Member mean it?

**Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai :** Yes, I mean it. They will be richer than people living in Sapele. (*Laughter*).

I would like to appeal to the Federal Government to try and find overseas markets for our wheat because already we are growing more wheat than we can consume locally. This is very important. The United States of America and Canada are exporting their wheat to other countries of the world. I therefore see no reason why Nigeria cannot sell her wheat overseas.

I beg to support.

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh** (Abaja and Ngwo) : I would like the Federal Government to undertake a soil survey of three Regions of the Federation. Before our independence the Federal Government took a very active interest in examining the soil structure of the whole of Western Nigeria with the result that that Region was able to know in which areas they could site their rubber and cocoa plantations.

You will realise, Mr Chairman, that before 1960 or thereabouts there had not been any cocoa or rubber plantation in the Eastern Region because various people had told us that soil in the East was not suitable for either rubber or cocoa. Now, it has been found that cocoa can grow very effectively in many parts of Eastern Nigeria. And rubber also is suitable even in parts of Awka Division of Eastern Nigeria. So, I would like the Government to allocate a substantial amount of money to the North, the East, and the Mid-West Regions for extensive soil survey in those places in order to know the areas in which various crops can grow.

In this regard, you will, Mr Chairman, understand that the main economy of the Federation depends on agriculture and that without a very extensive survey of this nature it will be impossible to increase the revenue of the various Regions that make up the Federation.

While I do not grudge the Western Region what the Federal Government has done there, I think it is the duty of the Federal Government to carry out the same soil survey in other Regions so that we can be in a position to benefit from the extensive agricultural research that is being undertaken.

In various Regions of the Federation, Governments are undertaking very gigantic planning on farming. In the Eastern Region especially, one will not fail to praise the Government for the great agricultural palm plantations which are being established all over the Region. The result is that very many youngmen, school leavers, are now being absorbed into very gainful employment. I would insist that this Federal Government should assist the East Regional Government, and other Regional Governments for that matter, to boost up their farm economy.

One would not fail to ask the Minister of Economic Development to ensure that more research is carried out into our timber. I say this because we understand that some of our timber is useful in some type of industry.

Take bamboo for instance. Bamboo is very suitable for the making of paper. I understand that the Federal Government has been researching into, and finding out the necessary items for the production of paper.

About fifteen years ago when I had the privilege of touring some areas of the world, I found that India had been using bamboo for the production of paper. And when in Nigeria some three years ago, we had been researching into material for the making of paper, I considered it necessary that some of our experts in this field of research should tour and get acquainted with what was happening in other parts of the world. While it is easy to see at first hand what other Governments have been able to produce, it may take years before one can come to a conclusion on research into a certain matter. So, it will be

in the interest of this Federation if some of our research workers have time to tour other parts of the world to get some experience.

I beg to support.

**Mr E. A. Odo** (Idoma West): I rise to support the expenditure on this Head. I wish to appeal to the Minister concerned to see to it that agricultural research is extensively carried out in the whole Federation. At present it seems to me that agricultural research is left only to the Regional Governments to carry out.

I should also appeal to the Federal Government to see that such a rich Region like the Northern Region with all types of animal resources should be well developed and I am suggesting that as we are having almost all our needs from overseas, the Federal Government should try to establish such industries like meat canning and dairy processing in Bornu Province and other parts of Northern Nigeria.

I beg to support.

**M. Yesufu Ilesha** (Borgu): I start by paying glowing tribute to the Minister of Economic Development for his effort to better the lot of every citizen of Nigeria and for promoting the economy of Nigeria, to the best of his ability. For this, I award him the title of the Most Distinguished Minister for the expansion of the economy of Nigeria in particular and that of the world in general.

I have only one thing of which I want to remind the Minister of Economic Development and, that is, that he should carry out an experiment into the development of kolanut and cocoa plantations in Northern Nigeria, especially in such places like Ilesha and Borgu, my home town. I mention these places because last year the Regional Government examined the soil and it was found that if an experiment is carried out into the development of kolanut in Ilesha, it will benefit Northern Nigeria.

My second point is the greater need for assisting our local farmers. It is already evident that more than ninety-nine *per cent* of the people of Nigeria are agriculturists. Our farmers from morning to evening, every day go to farms, but these people have no capital to purchase implements. I want the Federal Government to give them loans so

[M. YESUFU ILESHA]

that they may purchase implements to enable them carry on modern farming.

I beg to support.

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East): I notice that agriculture about which we are talking forms part of our economic development and I think that in this relation, I would like in its discussion to touch quite a number of things.

One would have thought that when we are thinking of the overall development of this country with particular reference to agriculture, fisheries and many other things, we would have every part of the Federation in mind. Thinking of the township areas like Lagos, Kano, Port Harcourt, Onitsha, Enugu and also bearing in mind the rural areas a lot has to be said about this. I want to say that even though agriculture is a Regional matter, the Federal Government has a part to play in matters affecting the Regions and the rural areas within these Regions.

It appears that at the moment the Federal Government is concentrating its activities on research and one wonders the type of research that is going to benefit this country. Recently I know, people tried to reseach on how to plant yams from the seeds. How does that affect the overall economy of this country? I think it is meaningless and any money spent on such research is money wasted. A person attempting to research on how to grow yams from the seeds is wasting time and money and such a research is useless.

We know quite well that in this country places like Anambra will continue to feed this country for years on end without having to grow yams from the seeds. So, the attempt that is being made in most of our Federal research stations to grow yams from the seeds is a wasted effort.

This is only a single example. In fact, what I am trying to stress is that research as it is being done in this country to-day I think makes for no profit whatsoever. Our research should be aimed at something realistic and not just trying to research into something that is definitely impossible.

On this question of agriculture as part of our development, I think that, in fact, what we in Nigeria should do at the moment is to make sure that any little half-penny we have is put

into good use. At the moment we are aiming at too many things with very poor results. May I just say that when the first progress report on our economic development came out, I took interest in reading it and one would see very clearly that we had expected a reasonable sum to be coming in from external sources.

Now, from what was said here yesterday by the Minister of Economic Development, it is quite clear that less than one third of what was expected to come in has come in so far. I do not want to be a pessimist, but I am quite sure that, in fact, the rate at which external aid is going to come into this country is even going to grow less than what we have ever had. I have that fear myself and I am quite sure because it is based upon facts.

Some people may ask why I am coming to this conclusion and I will try to give some two reasons. The first reason is that I feel that in this country we are living a false life. Many of our Ministers go out to ask for loans and that shows that the country is poor.

**Several hon. Members** : No, no, no ! We are very rich.

**Mr Mordi** : If Members say we are very rich, are we rich and at the same time we are an under-developed country? The point about it is that if we had enough, we would not go out to look for something that we have. It is because we have not enough, that is why we go outside to look for money.

When we go out to look for these heavy sums of money, we in our country give people from whom we are going to borrow this money the impression that we are very rich. After all, if any Member here should come to me for help, say, he comes to get five shillings from me and when he is coming, he is in his best suit—a flowing jacket, a nice pair of trousers and a tie—I cannot give him the money because what he puts on is more costly than five shillings which he comes to borrow from me.

I think it is entirely meaningless, for our Ministers who are going out to look for money to be driving in rolls-royce cars.

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central) : I think the hon. Member speaking is completely irrelevant.

**The Chairman** : I agree that he is irrelevant

**Mr Mordi :** All I was trying to say is that we are asking for money for our overall development, including agriculture and other things. It is true that we are looking for money for our development and when we are looking for this money we must give the impression that we have a need for the money and that we are going to put the money into good use. Now, it is no use borrowing money for nothing.

I want to say also that one of the reasons why it will be difficult for some time for external loan to come in for our development is that there is instability in some parts of this country and something must be done about it.

I also want to say something about some of our people in this country who go out to borrow money. This, perhaps, may be a little bit offensive, but it is not because, after all, I heard it from a reliable source that some of our people in this country are very big financiers overseas. We also understand that some of our people here in Nigeria have invested so much in bus services in Switzerland.

**The Chairman :** Order ! I do hope that the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) knows that we are discussing agricultural research ; that is, the research side of agriculture alone.

**Mr Mordi :** What I was saying is that we require money for our agricultural research and that we can get that money here in Nigeria if our people will be more patriotic. It is no use spending money which could be gainfully used on agricultural research on acquiring wealth overseas.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) :** On a point of order, I think the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) is completely irrelevant and he should be ruled out of order, because this Head we are now discussing is agriculture.

**Mr Mordi :** In any case, I hope I will have another opportunity of raising this point again. But I must say emphatically, that if we are going to invest money in most of these things in Nigeria, we must be sure that the money is very well invested. It should not be invested on useless research.

I want to say something further, as far as the Regions are concerned. Now, permit me, Mr Chairman, to be a little bit parochial in this case. The Mid-West Region has just been created and I think that in agricultural research

the Federal Government should help the Region because it has got no money at the moment to undertake its own agricultural research. It is a common knowledge that we have plenty of rubber in the Mid-West on which research has not been carried out.

We also have other important agricultural products on which research can be undertaken. We have cassava, and I understand that there is a chemical called 'hydrocyanic acid' which can be produced from cassava and which in fact can be of great chemical value. The Federal Government should therefore undertake further research into some of these important crops from the Mid-West.

Finally, I want to emphasise the point I have already made that when carrying out these researches we should be doing so for the purpose of developing this country and not just for the purpose of carrying out research.

**Mr D. C. Ahamefula (Okigwi South West) :** This is a very important Head, and I say so because very often, when we ask for amenities to be provided in the rural areas we have always been told that there are certain conditions to be fulfilled before these amenities can be provided. This Head deals with agriculture, and it is a subject on which the Federal Government can come in to show the interest it has in the rural areas.

I do not know what prevents the Federal Government from establishing at least two Farm Settlements in each Region to show that it has real interest in the rural areas.

The Federal Government should not continue to establish all the industries in the urban areas. They should try and establish industries in the rural areas too, and this is the time when they should come out and show to the people in the rural areas that it was because of the provision of our Constitution that they had not come all these days to help the rural areas.

Agriculture, as we have been told, is a major project that can enhance the economy of our country, and if the Federal Government can give some assistance to the Regional Governments the Regional Governments will copy the Federal Government and in turn give assistance to interested individuals who may like to undertake agricultural research.

[MR AHAMEFULA]

I therefore want to emphasise that the Federal Government should make it a policy to extend agricultural research to the rural areas instead of spending all our money on big cities like Lagos, Port Harcourt and the like.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi) : The Minister of Economic Development hit the nail on the head yesterday when he said in his speech that this country is suffering greatly from neo-colonialism. We are an agricultural community, and in my opinion, there is a challenge in this country which must be accepted by everyone of us.

The challenge is that agriculture is extremely unpopular in this country, especially among school leavers, and it is something that we should all jointly look into and remedy as soon as we possibly can.

We want the development of this country to be felt in all our constituencies and we know for certain that the majority of us come from the rural areas. Until the school leavers are prepared to return to the farm after obtaining their primary education there will continue to be dissatisfaction within the rural areas which will certainly lead to dissatisfaction also in the urban areas.

I therefore appeal to the Minister to see to it that something is done forthwith to improve, through research, the appalling conditions of our methods of farming in this country. Maybe we are poor in the sense that an individual farmer cannot afford the cost of mechanisation. It behoves, therefore, the Ministers of Agriculture in the Regions as well as the Federal Minister of Economic Development to sit down and work out very quickly ways and means of improving agriculture in this country.

It is only then that we shall begin to talk about the Ministers concerned as nationalists and as members of the community who have the interest of the country at heart. It is all right for us to come here and say, by way of pleasing ourselves, that the standard of farming in this country has been greatly improved.

Perhaps our colonial Government deliberately left things as they are, but then it is a challenge to our own Government, our present Republican Government, to do something immediately to improve the system and method of farming.

The Government should also encourage farmers in this country even if it is by way of giving loans collectively and giving them the necessary assistance technically and otherwise to put them on their feet. In this way they should be able, within our limited resources, to compete with their fellow farmers in this continent of Africa.

At this juncture, one cannot really resist bringing the Minister of Education into the discussion, even though we are not discussing that Head. I think that the unpopularity of agriculture in this country has to do with our educational system. I would like to suggest, therefore, that the two Ministers work hand in hand and produce a means of introducing into our school curriculum a method whereby every school child will be made to feel that he belongs to a rural area, that he belongs to a rural community, and that it is incumbent on him to strive to live and exist, and make his own contribution, no matter how small, towards the development and prosperity of that community. It should be impressed upon every school child that agriculture is the main occupation of the people in this country.

May I appeal to the Minister of Economic Development to work harder still. I do not think it will be out of place to emphasise again what I have always said on the Floor of this House, that we can, if we work towards it, produce not only all the wheat we require, but also enough to export to the neighbouring countries.

This, as I have always pointed out, can only be achieved by improving irrigation along the Chad shores. It is no use deceiving ourselves by saying that we can produce any amount of wheat, without actually making concrete plans for this. I do sincerely hope that steps will be taken to speed up progress in this direction.

I beg to support.

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** (Ahoada Central) : I support the expenditure on this Head. But I have a few observations to make—

**Mr E. D. Akinbowale** (Ijebu North) : On a point of order, it appears to me that we are wasting time on agriculture alone. We are supposed to be dealing with agricultural research, and besides, we have several other Heads to consider, namely, Veterinary Research,

search, Fisheries Service Research, Forestry Research, *et cetera*. But it appears to me that we are wasting time on agriculture alone. I think we should devote more time to the other aspects of agricultural research.

**The Chairman :** I think that is a good advice.

**Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa (Benin West) :** On a point of order, I think it is accepted by all sides of this House that agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of this country and any time spent in discussing agriculture is no time wasted. The more time we give to our discussion on agriculture the better our agricultural plans become.

**Mr Onwuchekwa :** I think any time spent in discussing agriculture in this House is very well spent.

We find that our experts spend more time in experiments in the laboratory, trying to do some research into agriculture. In my opinion, what we need is the result of such experiments and very quick results for that matter. We need an agrarian revolution in a very short time. We do not need also the numerous researches, the results of which we never see. We need quick results in order that our teeming population can be fed.

It seems to me that we are not taking full advantage of the opportunities that are open to us. Many other nations are ahead of us in research. They have made immense progress and have achieved a great deal by way of agricultural research. Why do we not send our people to these other countries to assimilate the processes through which these countries have passed.

I have in mind a country like Trinidad which is very famous for tropical agriculture. Instead of wasting all the money in the laboratory here, we should send about five hundred or more Nigerians to Trinidad to study tropical agriculture with a view to improving our condition.

**Mr U. O. Ayeni (Afenmai North West) :** On a point of order, the hon. Member speaking is a little bit out of date. Some of our agricultural experts have been trained in Trinidad. I think some are still there. The hon. Member is not making any new contribution.

**Mr Onwuchekwa :** We need to send more of them. What I mean is not just sending one or two experts. We want to do things in a big way. Let us send them in thousands. Agriculture is a very big project. We cannot just send twenty people abroad and say that we have got some people overseas. Let us send them in thousands. When they come back they will be distributed to the North, the Mid-West, the East and to the West. Then they will be able to revolutionise agriculture in this country.

It is not just a matter of sending twenty people and when they come back they are dumped in a laboratory to begin to experiment. By so doing, we have not done anything practical. That is what I mean.

Our men should come back in thousands and when they are settled they are distributed around the Federation. In a very short time the whole country will be revolutionised agriculturally.

During the last trade exhibition, I saw eggs being hatched at the Israeli Stand and within one week they grew up to chicks of reasonable height. This is the type of method we should send our people to learn in England.

Another thing we should have expected is this. Instead of doing only research, this Ministry should send our farmers overseas in order to broaden their views. This will shake off the lethargy of our farmers and the conservatism that is rampant among them.

**Mr E. D. Akinbowale (Ijebu North) :** The Gentleman speaking is wasting our time. I wish to inform him that we should be fair to the Agricultural Research Department. Much money has been voted by the Government for agricultural research and much work has been done by the agricultural research section.

All over the country we see examples of their work. If the hon. Member speaking wants to see the result of their work, he has to travel to see what they are doing. Much of what he is talking about had been done.

**The Chairman :** I think you should appreciate that he has his own opinion and that he is entitled to it.

**Mr Onwuchekwa :** I think I belong to this nation. What I am saying is that I would like

[MR ONWUCHEKWA]

to see the effect of all these researches. The Member for Ijebu North (*Mr Akinbowale*) said that the results could be seen all over the country but I have not seen any. I come from a very large constituency.

If our farmers were built up like this they would be able to know farming methods and it would also be an easy thing to educate their minds. For instance, farming in this country is consistent with the word poverty. But that is contrary to the impression created in other nations.

I remember discussing with a friend of mine in France. He was very proud to say that his father was a farmer. But if anybody says in this country that his father is a farmer, the impression which is created at once is that he is a poor man.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi** (Afenmai East): There is a female Member on that side of the House.

**The Chairman** : There is no female Member in this House.

**Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai** (Dambatta) : This is a very imputing statement. I would like the Member for Afenmai East to withdraw this statement because the hon. Member he referred to is a respectable Gentleman.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central) : I think the hon. Member can get up so that we can make sure that he is not a woman.

**The Chairman** : Will you stop wasting our time.

**Mr Onwuchekwa** : We should allow our farmers to broaden their ideas. Another thing is that when we have had these agricultural researches, we should also turn our attention to mechanical farming. I think all our drawbacks hinge on this. We need mechanical farming. It is only when we begin to make use of machines that we shall have a sort of agrarian revolution which we are aiming at.

When we are doing research we must also research on this mechanical farming. It is true that it will cost very heavily but if we apply our heart and soul into it, I think we will be able to achieve success—and a rapid success at that.

Another thing is food preservation. It seems to me that what we lack in this country

mostly is the right method of food preservation. Before food is brought from the place of production to the place of consumption a lot of waste is incurred because of lack of good method of preservation.

I think that agricultural research should be based particularly on this so that we will be able to preserve our food. That will help the producers to obtain more money; it will help the consumers as well to get cheap food. If this is done agricultural research in this country will be a big success.

**Mr V. T. Shisha** (Iharey Masey) : It is a very well known fact that agriculture is the surest of the basic resources from which our economic development can be achieved. Nigeria, being an agricultural country, has got all the natural resources for our economy. But these natural resources can be of no use if the Federal Government fails to utilize them for our development.

Since we depend on agriculture for our development, it would be much better for the Federal Government to give more money for this purpose.

It appears that the Federal Government has taken the line of least resistance by confining itself to research work. This is wrong. It does not help the teeming number of farmers in the rural areas. The Government should pay attention to agriculture because research work cannot solve all the problems which we are now facing.

There is no use when a research is made and nothing is put into practice in order to get that for which the research is made; unless we can do something by establishing certain farms in order to get these things we shall not progress.

In this connection I would like to suggest the creation of an Agricultural Ministry by the Federal Government. This will actually meet with the demand of the rural areas. The Ministry would not only take charge of research but would go into the field of agriculture in the real sense. More farm settlements should be established in the Regions and a Federal Ministry of Agriculture, when created, will then help to co-ordinate the work of all the Regional Ministries of Agriculture.

If we are bent on achieving mass employment for our people we must create opportunities for them by rapid industrialisation of this country. It is only by industrialising this nation that we can be hopeful of a strong economy with a high standard of living. The Federal Government should tackle this problem with the same vigour used in tackling other matters affecting this nation. It should not fight shy, and the Minister of Economic Development ought to understand that Lagos alone does not constitute Nigeria. The welfare of the people of the rural areas must be given prior and urgent attention because it is from the interior that our economy stems.

Take a look at the overall membership of this House and you will notice that it is only the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) who comes from Lagos. The other Members of this House come from the rural areas, and if we continue to concentrate industries and research institutions in urban centres, surely, I do not think that the people of the rural areas will feel happy about it.

**Mr E. D. Akinbowale** (Ijebu North): On a point of order, I wish to remind the Member for Iharev Masev (*Mr Shisha*) that it is not only Mr Dosunmu who comes from Lagos. You have Chief J. M. Johnson, Mr T. O. S. Benson and—

**The Chairman**: That is not a point of order.

**Mr Shisha**: The mere fact that you have about three Members representing Lagos does not mean that there should be concentration of industries and research institutions in Lagos alone.

I am saying that in the scheme of things, say, for instance, the siting of industries, the rural areas should be considered.

Researches have been carried out in the past in various centres in the country, of which the Tiv Division was one of them. I think it is high time that in these areas where researches have taken place with good results something was done by way of putting into effect whatever has been the outcome. If I may cite an instance. In an area in Tiv Division deposits of limestone and other minerals which would have made it possible for a cement factory to be started there were discovered, but up to the present time nothing has been done.

I am quite sure that that area is a good place for a farm settlement to be set up or a school of agriculture; and if any of these is set up many people will get employment.

We often hear of agricultural research, but we do not know what the result of the research has been. I implore the Minister of Economic Development to please keep us aware of the outcome of the various research programmes carried out from time to time. I say this because I am sure that in my constituency, for instance, if a thorough research is made gold can be found in good quantity.

I beg to support.

**The Chairman**: Mr W. J. Falaiye —

**Mr V. A. Nwalieji** (Nsukka West): On a point of order, if we intend to do justice to the other Heads of Estimates we must have to share out the time to go round the other Heads. Anything being said about agriculture here will not be very useful unless the remarks are directed to the Regional Governments.

**Mr W. J. Falaiye** (Ondo North East): We all agree that agriculture is a very important subject, that is why it should occupy so much of our time in discussing it. In this regard I have some suggestions to offer, and I shall be very brief.

The first point relates to the question of food preservation. During the harvest period we have food in abundance, but after a short while there is scarcity of foodstuff. If there has been a kind of food preservation device, food could be made available all the time. I am therefore suggesting that we should examine the possibility of setting up a machinery for preserving food.

The second point concerns the idea of some Members rising up to speak on something they have very little knowledge of and as a result of their ignorance they are very often challenged by other Members whenever they are speaking. In this connection, I am suggesting that it will be beneficial for Members to pay visits to various centres where there are important institutions, for example, a place like the research institute, and see things for themselves. If they do this, they will become more acquainted with what they see, and we shall have less of this idea of Members coming here to say something they have no previous knowledge of. They just indulge in saying things for the fun of it.



[MR FALAIYE]

Just as some of us have been made to pay a visit to a brewery, so also should some Members be taken to these research stations, so that they will be able to make better comments on them.

The other point I want to touch on is that although agriculture is a Regional matter and the Federal Government is concerned mainly with the research part of it, there should be more and regular meetings among the Governments of this country. I am suggesting this so that we can have a co-ordinated and concerted plan on agriculture because it is so vital to the people of Nigeria.

It has been said that school leavers do not like to engage their hands in farm work because it does not offer any attraction to them. I would even add that the local farmers themselves do not like copying the methods used by the department of agriculture in their locality, because they feel the implements used by the department of agriculture are very strange to them.

I think a means ought to be devised by which the farmers can be made to like the implements used by their respective departments of agriculture, so that farming can be made less laborious for them. At the moment the local farmers are still making use of the outmoded farming implements that their forefathers used.

The Government should come to the aid of these farmers by educating them on the need to abandon their old-fashioned method of farming and to engage in mechanised farming.

These are the few points that I wish to make.

**The Minister of Economic Development** (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim) : Efforts of the Federal and Regional Governments in encouraging agriculture in this country are commendable. Our approach now is on the practical aspect as opposed to the theoretical aspect of agriculture which was the case during the colonial days.

Agricultural research has produced improved seedlings of cotton, cocoa, groundnuts, palm kernels, coffee, oranges, tangerines, and so on; and from the improved seedlings it is now possible to produce better crops. Widespread uses of fertilizers can also be of help—this has been found to be so by research.

The question then arises, how are we going to make a widespread use of the research results ?

On the Government side, we have farm settlements where all the research results are used. We have Agricultural Institutes which demonstrate to people the use of fertilizers, weeding, and so on. But I think it is on the private sector that more effort is required.

Investment in Agriculture in the private sector has not been as good as it should be. Many of our people leave agriculture to the traditional farmers. Those who are in a position to invest £1,000 or £2,000 or £3,000 in business, invariably go into merchandise selling or to road transport.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East) : On a point of order, I want the Minister to tell the House what has led to the failure of agriculture in the private sector? I am putting it to him that it is due to the failures of experiments of all the researches to make agriculture a paying concern. Until something is done, the private sector will continue to be a failure.

**Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim** : In the United States of America where agricultural advancement has been very great, it has been the private initiative and investment that has brought about their success. Even in this country, some of our people who have moderate means can invest in modern agriculture. When they do so, I think, we too should be able to reach the standard the United States of America and other highly advanced agricultural countries of the world have reached. Private initiative is very important.

If people can put less money to the sophisticated business of lorry transport and can invest £3,000 to £4,000 in agriculture, I think that in the long run, they will get more benefit. We all know, for example, that in Fernando Po where some thousands of Nigerians are working, it is private Spanish interest that provides the work in agriculture. In the same way, it is possible, as I said in this House some time ago, that if people could put their money together and form agricultural companies, they would be in a position to employ some thousands of Nigerians in palm oil plantations, rubber, cocoa, cotton, groundnuts, beans and corn plantations.

An hon. Member suggested yesterday that it is possible for Nigeria to export corn—that is maize. It is possible. As the hon. Member

pointed out, Mexico can export corn and the United States of America can export corn too. There is no reason why we in Nigeria cannot. So the diversification of both food crops and export crops in Nigeria is possible if only private initiatives will play a greater role. We must not leave agriculture to our traditional farmers who have no means of buying ploughs and fertilizers. They depend on Government subsidy in buying fertilizers.

However, we have people in this country who can afford to buy two or three tractors which could be used to buy fertilizers. We also have the people who can employ the labour necessary to do a modern farming with a lot of advantage.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East): Will the Minister tell this honourable House that it is the wish of the Federal Government to make agriculture a federal subject, and then drop researches?

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh** (Ishan West): There is one thing which I would like the Minister to explain properly. I do not know what the Minister means by saying that people who have £2,000 or £3,000 should invest their money in agriculture. Should they invest this money as individuals without Government aid? It will take five or ten years for crops like palm trees to grow before they yield something to the individuals. If Government will provide something by way of encouragement to farmers, it will be better.

**Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim**: As part of the encouragement the Federal Government intends to give in agriculture, we are now contemplating to establish an Agricultural Credit Bank. That is in our Development Programme. If hon. Members will start investing their money in agriculture, no doubt, they will get the necessary financial encouragement when the agricultural bank has been established.

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central): Will the Minister, please explain how the ordinary peasant farmer will be affected by this system of loans? It will be very difficult for them to obtain loans. Would it not be much better if the Government subsidised the supply of fertilizers and livestock feeds, so that the price will be low enough for the peasant farmers to buy and use?

**The Deputy Chairman**: That may well be a very brilliant debate, but I think we are concerned with research at the moment.

**Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim**: Even now the small farmers get subsidy in fertilizer and they do benefit from the researches we are making by being shown how to use the improved seeds, fertilizers and the rest of them. So, the assistance which has been given to small farmers will continue.

Farmers have been informed to form co-operative marketing units. If they do this, they will continue to receive assistance from any agricultural financial institute.

There is not much I have got to say, Mr Chairman, because the importance of this subject is nothing new to any of us. It is a subject well known to all of us and I have only offered some pieces of advice that in order to diversify our production and also to increase the quantity of it, more private investment from the private sector is necessary.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji** (Egba East): I would like to speak on agricultural industry. It is quite obvious that the Government does not regard agriculture as an industry in the same way as they regard other industries which they invite people from foreign countries to come into Nigeria to help us develop. It is not the result of agricultural research that is responsible for agriculture not being developed in the country; it is the fact that we have not appreciated the truth that we do not know anything about agricultural industry in Nigeria in the same way as we do not know anything about textile industry, brewery and about quite a number of other industries which are coming into the country to-day. What we know is the way to till the soil, to eke out a living in the same way as we know how to weave cloth on our small hand loom. Why do we not say that we are going to give out loans to those small village weavers so that they may develop textile industry? We do not do that.

What I think we should do is to invite into the country, in the same way as we are doing in respect of other industries, people who know about agricultural industry to come and invest in agriculture here in conjunction with the Government and with private individuals. If we do that, there will be agricultural industries all over the country and upon these

[CHIEF ROSIJI]

agricultural industries we shall base our other industrial establishments and industrial products. Where we have cotton plantations we shall set up textile industry. Where we have plantations of palm trees and the production of palm kernels we set up such industries that will process our palm produce, and where we have any other agricultural products we set up such industries that can utilise such products.

I think that the system which we have now in the country, where the Government goes into agriculture, has failed everywhere. It does not succeed because the Government agricultural officers are not supposed to do the work they are doing at present. They know nothing about what they are doing now. What they know is laboratory research in agriculture. The man who knows commercial agriculture should be invited into the country to do commercial agriculture with the Government and the people. I think that is the only way by which we can help agricultural industry to-day in the modern sense and not by giving one thousand pounds to somebody here and one thousand pounds to another person there as loans for them to develop agriculture. And should anybody think that when money is given to people for the planting of palm trees or rubber trees the money is going to be used for that purpose? These people will have to wait for a period of about seven years before they can get anything out of such plantations! And who is going to wait for seven years to get anything out of his farm? The Government would not say that it is not going to take back from the farmer the money given to him as loan to make such a farm; but how is the farmer going to live in the meantime?

That is our trouble. If the Government attack the trouble in the same way as they attack our troubles in other industrial projects, we shall do well.

£319,900 for Head 31—Agriculture—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 32.—FISHERIES SERVICE

Question proposed, That £66,580 for Head 32—Fisheries Service—stand part of the Schedule.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East): The development of any concern depends on how profitable it can be made. That is why I

wholeheartedly agree with what the Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*) said, when speaking about agriculture just now, about inviting people to do business in agriculture in the same way as has been done in other industries. If this is true in the case of agriculture, it is truer in the case of fisheries industry because if we look at the total expenditure we find that the sum of £66,580 is going to be spent under this Head. But if we ask the Minister of Economic Development to tell us which of these items of expenditure can ever be self-sufficient, I am sure his answer will be nil.

And what is more, some of the items of expenditure under this Head appear to be funny. I observe that a total of £2,860 has been earmarked to be spent on Motor Basic Allowance, but this is fisheries service and all the people concerned with it are supposed to be sea people or people who go about business by water transport and people who leave near the sea shores! I can understand that being human beings, those of them who leave in the towns, among the senior executives, may need cars and therefore it becomes necessary for some money to be allotted for Motor Basic Allowance. But this is mainly a fisheries service and is supposed to be something done near the water side.

In Nigeria we have some tribes who are known to be fishermen. They live in the creeks and even build their houses on stilts raised high above the water. So I think this Motor Basic Allowance should be looked into because these are some of the extravagancies that lead to imbalance in the cost of maintaining the Ministries, in the same way as all these Inducement Allowance, Children's Allowance and Separate Domicile Allowance contribute to the invisible imbalance in our trade.

One important thing that has not been done, especially when we consider fisheries service, is the extent of Nigeria's territorial waters. I do not think that there is any map in existence which shows precisely which is the area of Nigeria's territorial waters. Supposing an argument arises by a Danish Company willing to establish a fisheries industry, say about three or four miles in the Atlantic in defiance of Nigeria's territorial waters, by what yardstick would the Nigerian Government—

House of Representatives Debates

1657

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

4 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1658

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East): I think the Member for Benin East (*Chief Oronsaye*) is misleading the House. There are international standards by which, by international agreements, countries know their actual limits. It may be three, six or eight miles, but there is an accepted standard and, therefore, to tell us here that Nigeria does not have its own off-shore waters would be misleading the House.

**Chief Oronsaye**: I think my hon. Friend the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) is having some conflicts in his mind because he himself has admitted before this House that the fixing of limits of territorial waters is done by international agreements, and all he should have done is to answer the question.

**The Chairman**: Certainly academic controversies, whether geographical or legal, as to the limits of territorial waters could have some minor relevance to this Head, but I do not think we should go into that too deeply knowing, of course, that there are about at least three international standards by which such limits could be determined.

**Chief Oronsaye**: Thank you, Sir. It was the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) who started the controversy.

As I was saying, it is necessary for a clear definition to be given. The development of fishery industries as it is stated here does not show that there is any liaison between the Federal Government and the Regional Governments. For instance, there is nothing said about the development of fishery industries in the Chad area.

We know for certain that the Niger Dam scheme which is bound to come into operation in a few years time, is going to increase substantially, the area of fresh water fishing in Nigeria. There is nothing here to show that there is a liaison going on, even though the waters or the areas of the River Niger have been declared a free zone, as I may describe it.

We have passed a Bill here which says that certain areas of the River Niger now belong to everybody. There is a need for some liaison between the fishery industries of the Federal Government and those of the Regional Governments so that the development of fishing in the

Chad area and in some of the Rivers in the North, East and West, should have been included in this item.

If as it is stated, the purpose of the Government expenditure is mainly for researches, then the researches should be countrywide although the subject of fishing is a regional one. Unless this liaison is created, then the work of the Ministry of Economic Development which should be in charge of this Head, is not complete, because one of the duties of the Minister of Economic Development is to co-ordinate the work of the Regional Governments with that of the Federal Government.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Oba S. A. Oladiran** (Okitipupa South): Having listened attentively yesterday to the fine speech made by the Minister of Economic Development, I am convinced that the Federal Government has good things in store for the millions of people in the Federation. But I am a bit disappointed because the Minister was silent over the question of fishery industry as a whole.

Fishing in fresh waters should be intensified along with fishing in ocean waters. I am appealing to the Minister to go into partnership or to co-operate with the Regional Governments so that fishermen in the regions may be helped by way of grants or loans in the carrying out of their vocation.

We have said here that school leavers should be encouraged to go back to farming. Along with this, these school leavers should also be encouraged to take to fishing. We can only do this if the Federal Government makes the job of fishing much more attractive to the young school leavers who may be interested in fishing.

We have seen in the Estimates under Nets and Equipment that the sum of £2,740 is to be expended this year. This amount is not sufficient. I know that this is only for researches. But nevertheless, some amount should have been voted in the Estimates to be allotted to the Regional Governments to enable them award loans to the fishermen in their respective regions.

By doing this, the Federal Government would be more alive to its responsibility to the millions of people in this Federation.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr J. U. Udenyi** (Enyong North) : I rise to support this Head, and in doing so, I must say that fisheries service is a necessity in this country because if we had a lot of fish in this country, there would be no need for the importation of stockfish. Stockfish is no good for the body. It is not a good fish at all, there is no nutritive value in it, it gives rise to toothache and for these reasons, I am suggesting that the Government should very much encourage the fishery industries in this country.

We have the Cross River in a part of my constituency, Enyong North, and I would like the Minister of Economic Development to establish a fishery industry in this area.

I really need a fishery industry in this area and the Minister should take note of it.

In supporting this Head, I must say that the money voted for this item is quite insufficient because in this country to-day there is nobody who does not eat fish. Some people do not take stockfish, some do not take beef but there is nobody who will say that he does not eat fish. It is the commonest diet that that we all take in this country and so the fishery industry must be encouraged.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central) : In supporting this Head I only want to remind the Minister of Economic Development that fisheries service is very important in this country and as such it should be given a country-wide encouragement.

In saying this, I have in mind two places in the North where fisheries service could be so encouraged that the fish produced will not only be consumed in this country but exported to other countries of the world. Places like the Lake Chad Basin in Bornu Province and Argungun in the Sokoto Province are very very famous for their fisheries services.

I am, therefore, asking the Minister to encourage fishery research in these areas so that the fishermen can benefit from the Federal Fishery Research Programme.

In the past, it has only been the local and and Regional Governments who give encouragement to the fishermen in these areas. I would, therefore, like to urge the Minister to see to it that fishery research and fishery industries are encouraged in these two areas.

I beg to support.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East) : I would just like to make one very important point under this Head and that is in regard to the fish called, "stockfish". The Minister knows what we call "stockfish". In Ibo, we call it, *Ogboroko*, in Yoruba, it is called *Palapala* and in Hausa, *Abinchi*.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central) : On a point of order, we do not call stockfish in Hausa, *Abinchi*, but we call it, *Kifi*.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** : I take the correction in Hausa.

This stockfish is a vital part of the diet of this country. We know that lately the stockfish trade has suffered reverses as a result of high duty. I want to say that this stockfish trade, not only constituting the vital part of our diet, but also constituting as it does, a vital part of the economy of this country in terms of trade, should be highly encouraged.

The Government can encourage it by intensifying a very high-powered fishing industry in which our fishermen would get this fish dried up and sent it to the hinterland. Whether the fish comes from the Chad, the Argungun River, the Sokoto River or from our territorial waters, is not of importance. What is important is that this country needs some protein in its food supply.

As you know very well, Mr Chairman, fish contains not only protein but a good deal of phosphorous and our diet will not be rich unless we have adequate supply of fish in the absence of meat.

Since stockfish comes from Norway and Sweden, and in fact it forms the bulk of our trade with those countries, the Government should be intensely interested in giving a leeway to the stockfish traders who abound in Port Harcourt and Lagos so that they can very easily supply the hinterland.

I therefore call on the Government to reduce substantially, if it cannot be eliminated wholly, the duty on stockfish in the absence of any establishment of our own powerful fishing industry. Until we establish a fishing industry which can substitute another fish for this vital diet of our own, the duty on stockfish should be eliminated entirely or reduced substantially in the interest of the public.

Fishing is very important, and the only contribution I want to make here is that I want to call upon the Minister to make a statement as to whether his Government is considering the reduction of duty on stockfish and to encourage fishery industry to make a substitute for stockfish.

I support the Head.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi) : I just want to say a few words on the fishery industry.

Having listened to what previous speakers have said on the desirability for the development of this industry around the Chad area, I have very little to add except to appeal to the Minister for the training of experts. Those of us who come from Bornu are very appreciative of the work now being done on the Chad Basin, and we feel that since we have been able to supply particularly the Eastern Region with fish for the past one hundred years satisfactorily, much would be achieved by developing a fishery industry along Lake Chad.

The problem now is about the acute shortage of experts who will advise the numerous fishermen who are handicapped by lack of capital. We feel very strongly that the Ministry of Economic Development should promote this industry especially now that the Railway is fast approaching Maiduguri.

The establishment of a fishery industry will improve the system of transport, method of catching fish and also the financial resources of the fishermen around Chad. By the establishment of this industry also, we shall be able to supply enough fish to the entire Federation, if not produce more for export overseas. We hope to see as soon as possible a stop being put to the imported fish coming from abroad to this country.

I beg to support.

**Mr C. A. Emenogha** (Onitsha North) : As regards the establishment of a fishery industry, I would like to stress the importance of developing that industry in our country as a means of improving the economy of the country.

I cannot understand why in our markets there are small fishes. If one goes to the Onitsha market for example, one finds, in the section for fish, small fishes that have developed

moulds and some of them fall into pieces as they have remained unsold for some time. These fishes, I think, could be put into better use.

If the Federal Government really wants to help the fishermen to do their work properly, I think that the first thing it should do is to organise these fishermen into groups and then assist them to get tools, nets and fishing boats. They will be able to do their work properly if they are in possession of these materials.

This country should establish, as I said before when I was contributing to the Budget Speech, a canning industry. We have tin ore in the country and I do not see why we should be importing tinned fish.

A tin of sardine costs as much as one shilling and six pence for about five little pieces of fish, and in our markets better fish remain unsold. If we could organise our fishermen to be able to collect all these little fishes and have them properly tinned, certainly we should have enough to supply to all other parts of the country and also stop the importation of fish, especially, stockfish.

Although some people say that it contains about ninety-five per cent protein, I think it is not very digestible. In any case, students who take this stockfish in the school complain so much of bad sight. Therefore, I do not see its usefulness.

Coming nearer home, I have said before that this Government should have interest in every nook and corner of this country. It seems to me that this Government being a Federal Government, our Ministers concentrate their attention more on those things that are cosmopolitan because they think more of things happening outside the country.

I think that we should come nearer home and develop the wealth that is in our country. In this respect, I beg to call the attention of the Government to my own constituency. One hon. Member here in this House made mention of that constituency when he was speaking. In fact, I did not ask him to do it. I was surprised. Anybody in the Eastern Region must have known that my own constituency can be described as "a land flowing with milk and honey" (*Hear, hear!*)

[MR EMENOGHA]

In my constituency, there are two big rivers—the River Niger and the Anambra River—and the fertile land gives you everything. I am talking about agriculture now. There is nothing we cannot produce there. We have fish which we supply to Onitsha market and to other parts of the country.

To my knowledge no Minister has ever come there for research purposes in order to see what can be got from the land. So, everything goes waste.

I have said that we produce plenty of fish. There is nothing which the soil can give that we do not have in plenty. But talking about fishing, I make bold to say that we have plenty of fishermen.

Most of our fishes go into waste. Some get rotten before they are bought in the market. Some are smoked and they grow mould and become useless. I am saying that the Government is not taking the pains necessary to make use of the fishing industry as a very big source of earning money in the country.

The fish go into waste. The women sweep them out after some time and the fish in the market which are thrown away are much better than the small things I find in the sardine tins. So, what I am stressing is that the Government should first get the people organised to work in groups and then give them the means of fishing—fishing boats, fishing nets *et cetera* and then show them the process of curing their fish.

We have the rivers. After all the River Niger is one of the biggest rivers in Africa and in addition to that, we have the Anambra River and numerous other rivers interlacing the whole area. Fish is plentiful.

Last year, the fishermen, prepared a kind of poison which they bought from the shop, and put this in the waters. Hundreds of fish were gathered then, but they were wasted.

If the Government can organise them, show them how to make use of the fish, we shall improve the economy of the country. I am begging the Government to take interest, the like of which the heart takes by sending nutriment even to the tiniest cell of the body. Let the Government take interest even in the little villages. The kingdom is with us but we go on improving big towns—I am not condemning the Government.

In big countries like England, Czechoslovakia it is so. I am saying that the Government should not do like a big man who spends his time in entertaining V.I.P.s in his house and not having time to see to his family needs; the wife with a small child is dying in the kitchen and the big man sees the big men in the house and has not enough time to see the small child or his wife. That is exactly the case with some of our Ministers. They go abroad but they do not come here to see their people.

I am begging that the Government should come to my area. We have enough for our people, enough for other parts of Nigeria and for the whole world.

**The Minister of Economic Development** (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim): I have here to show honourable Members a fish, not stockfish but a salted fish from Lake Chad. What I have shown to you, hon. Members, is over nine months old and nothing has gone wrong with it. It is the result of the research work carried out by a Federal Research Officer in conjunction with the Regional Government Fishery Research Officers (*Applause*). This type of fish is like stockfish but it is more delicious and more nourishing. In the Eastern Region already this salt and dried fish replaces the formerly smoked fish that people used to buy from Lake Chad.

In the past there was a system of smoking fish in Lake Chad. It is called *Banda* in Kanuri and it is very popular in Eastern Nigeria. We have got many Easterners who fish in the Lake and who have formed themselves into small fishing units. They buy fish and they also do the fishing themselves. They smoke it and then send it to the East where it is very popular.

**An hon. Member** : Made in Nigeria goods !

**Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim** : The same Easterners in Lake Chad—I have visited them and they are about 200—are now changing over from the smoked fish to this salted one. So, Members should know that in due course when this system is fully developed, it will replace the stockfish to a very good extent and I would be pleased to give a small portion to Members who are interested (*Laughter*).

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe** (Orlu West) : On a point of order, I move that the Minister of Economic

House of Representatives Debates

1665

[Appropriation (1964 65)

4 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1666

Development should pass round the *Banda* fish to Members.

**The Chairman :** I do not think it is convenient to move a fish all over the house. Perhaps the Minister might find a place where honourable Members could go and see it.

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** On a point of order, I think that this issue of stockfish and salt-fish is very important to this House because, as I pointed out, stockfish forms the bulk of the diet of people in Nigeria and the Minister has said that Eastern Nigeria contributes largely—

**Several hon. Members :** No .

**Professor Ezera :** What I want to ask is this. What is the Minister doing. He has told us what he is doing to increase this salt fish from Lake Chad but what is he doing to increase the fishery industry also in the territorial waters in the South—Lagos and Port Harcourt.

**Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) :** On a point of order, stockfish does not form the bulk of the diet in Nigeria.

**Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim :** I think I agree with the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) that stockfish does not form the bulk of the foodstuff in Nigeria. It does not. We should not exaggerate its importance.

In any case, I have brought this fish here to show you the effort of the Government in promoting the fishery industry in Nigeria, both the ocean fish and the river and lake fish.

This is one of the results of the co-operation between the Federal and the Regional Governments in fishery research. We are doing more than that. In fact, on the sixth of this month, that is next Monday, there will be a conference of experts from Niger Republic, Cameroun, Chad and Nigeria, to discuss the development of the Chad Basin, in respect of agricultural potentiality and fishery.

I shall be opening that conference on Monday. So, you can see we are doing everything possible to encourage the fishery industry so as to make Nigeria less dependent on outside sources for its requirement of fish.

Very soon, a convention establishing a commission which will govern the development of the Chad area, will be formed between the four countries bordering the Lake Chad—Nigeria,

Niger Republic, Cameroun and Chad. The draft convention has already been completed and the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice will, very soon, be signing it.

It has been found that, with the proper development of fishery in Lake Chad, fifty per cent of Nigeria's requirement of fish will be met. In addition to fish, we know there are other types of small edible sea creatures which also live in the Lake Chad. These will also be exploited.

I want to make a point about motor car allowances to fishery officers mentioned by the Member for Benin East (*Mr Oronsaye*). The fishery officers are entitled to motor car allowances, like all other officers. They go to sea at about 5 o'clock in the morning, return home at about 6 o'clock in the evening. In the course of travelling, they make use of their cars. Why should we then deny them the privilege of having cars for their enjoyment or paying them motor car allowances, since other civil servants are entitled to these privileges?

Speaking on the question of territorial waters, I would say that the internationally accepted boundary is about three miles. We recognise up to a distance of three miles from our shore as our territorial waters. In Iceland, where the fishing industry is so very important, the people there claim as much as twelve miles. There has been argument on the subject between Iceland and Britain for some years now. Again Britain is also considering the possibility of extending her territorial waters to about six miles. We, of course, have to consider the importance of fishing to these two countries. In Nigeria, however, we recognise the internationally accepted length of three miles.

We have taken note of the suggestions made by various Members in connection with river fishing. We are doing our best and we are never tired of doing our best. We shall even do more.

One thing, however, which surprises me in this country is this: we always say that Government should do this or that. Government is doing its best, it is true, but in a democratic State and under private enterprise system of the economy, one cannot depend on Government for everything. The people who trade in fish, for example, should improve the marketing system of their trade, the storage facili-



[ALHAJI WAZIRI IBRAHIM]

ties, and so on. For how long are we going to depend on Government to do everything? It is just impossible.

This is not a socialist country. When Members talk, they give the impression that this is a socialist country where the Government is expected to own everything—industries, shops, *et cetera*. We are certainly not a socialist State, and for this reason, I think we must now appeal to our own people who engage in different enterprises to improve their methods, such as their marketing methods, their storage methods, and so on.

I would like to repeat that it is on private initiative mostly that all the wonderful achievements have been made in America, England or France. If we depend on the Government for everything in this country, the speed of progress will be very slow. The Government has got many other things to cater for—the building of schools and hospitals, the construction of roads and so on and so forth.

There are not sufficient resources for the Government to embark on such other activities as the improvement of marketing for those engaged in the fishing trade, the provision of storage facilities for them, and so on. I think we should appeal more to the individuals to do research into these things on their own in the interest of their business, be it fishing, cottage industries, sales of merchandise or anything else. I think we should depend less on the Government.

Another thing about this fish I am holding is that it can be eaten in its present form, even without first cooking it. It tastes very nice in this salted form too.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji** (Egba East): On a point of order, I think the Minister should not be allowed to eat fish in the Chamber of the Parliament.

**Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim**: Here is some fish for the Member for Egba East (*Mr Ayo Rosiji*). I am sure he would like it too.

**Mr V. T. Shisha** (Iharev Masev): I think the portfolio of the Minister of Economic Development should be changed to Education. He teaches very well with his demonstrations, which makes it all the more necessary for him to be changed to Minister of Education.

**The Minister of Education** (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku): Those who teach are found in secondary schools or universities, not in Parliament. They do not even go to Ministries. Some of my officials who were teachers before had really gone into the field at one time or the other. If my hon. Colleague, the Minister of Economic Development, wants to have a change, then the Advanced Teacher Training College, the Science School, and the University, are waiting to take him in.

£66,580 for Head 32—*Fisheries Service—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

HEAD 33.—FORESTRY (RESEARCH)

*Question proposed, That £147,280 for Head 33—Forestry (Research)—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr E. D. Akinbowale** (Ijebu North): Speaking on this Head, I wish to preface my talk with a saying which runs thus:

“Words, like leaves, upon the surface they flow;

But he that will search for pearls must dive below.”

That is the appropriate quotation for any saying about Forestry Research. Unlike all other sections of Government Departments, one cannot easily see what is being done in the Forestry Research.

Money is voted every year for services in this arm of Government service, but what is done here is not seen as is seen of agriculture and other services. If one wants to appreciate what is done in the Forestry Research, one has to find time to go to their headquarters or to the fields to see just part of what is being done.

Let me name some of the sections under the Forestry Research: we have the soil section which deals with plantations; we have pathology section which deals with insects and pests; we have the utilisation section which deals with carrying out of mechanised tests and other kinds of tests. Research into all these is being carried out, but their results can only be seen after thirty, forty or even fifty years.

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu): The hon. Gentleman is lecturing us. I thought he was going to contribute to the debate on this Head of Estimates, but I was surprised to hear him lecturing on the functions of the Forestry Research Department.

*House of Representatives Debates*

1669

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

4 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1670

**Mr Akinbowale :** I think the Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*) was a worker before in the Forestry Department. All these workers in the Forestry Department need our encouragement. We should thank the Minister of Economic Development for all he has done to encourage these workers.

The point I want to stress is that the money voted for this arm of Government service is certainly not enough. There is a lot to be covered in the Estimates—local transport and travelling, motor-vehicle: maintenance and running costs; upkeep of laboratories, forest operations, utility services, forest products research laboratories, and so on and so forth. All the amounts voted for use under these sub-heads are not enough.

When we go into the details of the work in the Forestry Research Department, we shall realise that there is need for the workers to travel far and wide to carry out their work which covers the whole country.

If we go to the East or the North or the West or even the Mid-West now, we should see samples of their work there. But Government, perhaps, thinks: Oh, just that small amount is enough for this department of Government. It is not enough. My point is that the Minister should be kindly disposed to make recommendations that large sums of money should be voted to these departments for carrying out their difficult tasks which will bring ultimate good to the whole country by way of improved yield of timber and by way of other researches which are to be carried out so that the country may benefit largely.

I beg to support.

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie (Enugu) :** While I am supporting the hon. Gentleman who spoke last, I feel that the Minister should also look into the question of destruction of forests. It appears that in this country we are not very much alive to the uses of having extensive forests, whereas in all parts of the world, at the moment, efforts are being made to preserve forest areas. In this country it appears that there is a lot of destruction going on, and I appeal to the Minister to see to this.

There is another point on the question of offering scholarships to people who wish to do forestry. It appears that the Scholarship Board (although I am happy that the Minister

is doing very well in this direction) has not been awarding sufficient scholarships for students to do forestry research. It is very essential, and in view of the potentiality of forestry resources, we feel that this country stands to gain if we pay particular attention to forest matters.

Another point is that if we look round, those who are travelling from here to Benin will discover a lot of things about our forests. One is that the Forestry Department seem to concentrate their efforts in certain areas while other areas are neglected. I know that the Federal Government has the responsibility to carry out research work in forest matters, but they also have the responsibility to plan for the whole country about forestry. Some more forest areas should be acquired, not only because of the forest itself, but we know that the less forest we have in the country, the less animals we have, and all these things are necessary for our country.

The Minister should also advise the Regional Governments to see to it that those who are charged with forest affairs do things excellently. At the moment, in the Eastern Region, it appears that the Government is doing very well; but at the same time, it appears that the Federal Government is not trying to see what is going on there. We want more control over the Regional Governments. Of course, I know that there is no forest in the Northern Region, but in other countries forests can easily be planted where there has been no forest, and the existing ones can be preserved.

I support the Head.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) :** Whenever we come to this Head, I always remember the vast virgin land which we have in this country. I know the Regional Governments are very much concerned about forest research, particularly Northern Nigeria where, in recent years, it became very difficult for areas in the far North to have trees. For this reason the Government of Northern Nigeria planted trees which had been doing very well in the upper North though, unfortunately, there are always difficulties because once a new tree is planted in an area, due to the absence of other trees, the planted tree do not always survive.

[M. IBRAHIM GUSAU]

So we can see that although it is advantageous to plant trees, there are also disadvantages. I feel that it is time for this Government to have areas in Northern Nigeria where forest research can be carried out. I know that there is the Moor Plantation in the West, but I do not think there is any Federal research institute in forestry in Eastern Nigeria.

I am sure that if forest research is made in the North, trees which can be planted here in the South can at the same time be found suitable places in the North. So I ask the Minister to see that the vast virgin land which we have in the North is made good use of.

I beg to support.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe** (Orlu West) : Last week we spent a lot of time talking about closing the gap between the import and export trade of Nigeria, and when I contributed to the debate I mentioned one of the ways that Nigeria can very easily close the widening gap between our export and import trade by increasing our export products. One of the areas where this can be done is our wild life and forest products.

As the Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*) said before, the wild life of Nigeria, the farm products, rubber products, timber products and many others have contributed to our export market, but very little has been done by this generation to tap the resources of our ancestors. Over ninety per cent of what we extract is mainly what nature or our ancestors bequeathed to us in Nigeria. We are doing nothing to justify our existence to the generation yet unborn.

In America, for example, the Federal Government, under the United States Department of Agriculture, votes a large sum of money for planting new forests, replenishing those trees being cut down, introducing wild life (new birds and new animals) into their country.

Three months ago, we caught a bird in my village and it was said to have escaped from a German Zoo, and it had come to Awo Omama in Oru Division where it was caught. In this country anybody can just go into the bush and cut down trees wantonly, destroy animals wantonly and there is no strong law to punish offences of this nature. America spend millions of pounds every year planting new trees and

safeguarding the lives of wild life ; and if one wants to hunt, he obtains a licence and when he goes into the bush he cannot shoot down young animals.

To give an example, about four or five years ago, there was a movement that everybody should plant only three trees each, and when the trees were counted at the end of one year, over 50,000 olive trees were found.

Because of the temporary boom in timber business in Europe, everybody in Nigeria goes into the bush, cuts down timber trees and ships them to England. I would say that timber business in this country is not protected. I think the Minister of Economic Development has a task here to perform. Since the Minister takes care of the unforeseen directions in the prices of palm produce, cocoa, cotton and groundnut, so also the timber should be protected.

As I was saying, we are talking of fighting unemployment and getting job for school leavers and improving the lot of farmers. When we speak of improvement in agriculture, we do not simply mean planting more yams or more cassava. Forestry could be a farming industry. For example, if we plant *malina* tree now, in six months' time it will become a timber. One *malina* tree costs about £3-10s if it is used by the E.C.N. for making electric pole. Why can not the Minister encourage the farmers to plant this type of tree ?

I disagree absolutely that this country is *laissez-faire*. If we say that farmers and businessmen should take care of themselves, everybody should take care of himself and the devil behind man, and God help us ! we are going to perish. The role of a government in an emergent country like Nigeria has to be the role of a facilitator. The Government should provide the climate conducive to industry, development and growth. Then the Government should teach the people. The Government should provide more capital, more houses, the technical know-how and tell the people to make use of them. The wealth of the nation depends on these people. If the people have no money, they regard the Government as being poor. The Government should plan an economy which will help our people. The Government should pass promotive laws and pass prohibitive laws that if you do well the Government will pay you, and if you do not do

well the Government will punish you. This will be a new formula. Without this, economic development is impossible.

I beg to support.

**Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa** (Benin West): I have very little to contribute to the points already advanced. It is on the question of game reserve. One has to go to some of the big cities like Europe to find what tremendous attraction it is to go to any zoo in a foreign country to find animals from one's own country—animals that one had not seen before.

I think that the wealth of this country is not really based upon the human resources alone. It is also based on the natural resources. The natural resources of this country are not limited to gold, diamond, ore and timber. At least they include the wild game. I think we can borrow a leaf from the East African countries like Kenya and Uganda where game reserves have been established for quite a long time. Except that is done, we may come to a stage where certain rare animals in our country may become virtually extinct.

I am appealing to the Minister of Economic Development that he should not concentrate on getting forestry reserves only. He should also concentrate on getting a national game reserve. It has beauty and adds to the dignity of the nation.

We are really discussing at the moment the Forestry arm of the Ministry of Economic Development. When the Minister presented his Ministerial Statement to this country, he touched all the Heads under his Ministry. I would like to say something on the aspect of the Ministry which touches agriculture quasi-forestry.

I would say outright that there is a tremendous amount of malnutrition in this country. I think the Minister is responsible for it, because there is plenty of milk in the North. I have to go to Kingsway Stores and C.F.A.O. to get a tin of milk. I would prefer fresh milk from the North to an imported one which has been so processed that the value has been considerably reduced. I would ask a question here: What is the nature of our forestry research? Is it limited to Nigeria alone? We cannot think in terms of research in isolation. If we think in terms of the O.A.U. now, we have the same physical features. We have the same forestry features and we have the same climate.

I am asking the Minister whether he cannot think of convening a sort of meeting between the West African countries and Nigeria so as to reduce our overhead costs in research. If this is done, the whole country can get together, think in terms of rice research with headquarters in Sierra Leone. We can think in terms of cocoa research with its headquarters in Ghana; we can think in terms of palm research with its headquarters in Nigeria. I am asking the Minister to drop the name 'W.A.I.F.O.R'. W.A.I.F.O.R. is presently run and financed by the Government of this country, and to call it the West African Institute for Oil Palm Research is a misnomer.

For more than two years now, the constitution of the W.A.I.F.O.R. has not been presented. It is when hon. members know the constitution of this institute that we can really actively criticise it.

I beg to support.

£147,280 for Head 33 — Forestry Research — ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 34.— VETERINARY

Question proposed, That £259,220 for Head 34 — Veterinary — stand part of the Schedule.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central): If there is any feeling about our economic affairs where we want our Minister to be up and doing, it is in this branch — Veterinary Research. We know that a lot is left undone. If I may take them one by one, I would like to speak on the canning industry of this country first.

We know that in the North there is an abundance of cattle, sheep, goats, *et cetera*, and their hides and skins are left uncared for. They are not used for the purpose of industrialisation. We import floor mats from the United Kingdom. We also import brief cases and every hon. Member here has an imported brief case. If the Government takes a bold initiative to go into the tanning industry we shall see that the importation of brief cases and leather bags will cease immediately. We shall also see that our financial resources will be very much improved.

There are many schools and colleges in Nigeria and they use chalk. We have large quantities of bones in this country. Why can

[MR MUOJEKE]

the Government not utilise these bones for the manufacture of chalk instead of importing chalk from other countries. The Government should establish a chalk industry in the Northern Region where there are plenty of bones. If this is done, many people will be employed in the industry.

Yesterday I was saying that the Government should make use of our talents wherever they are found. It does not matter where the talent is found ; it can be in the East or West. Animal feeds can be produced from animal refuse. Instead of throwing away these raw materials from animals, the Government should find means of utilising them. We know that fine ornaments and previous carvings can be made out of elephant tusks. There is talent as far as carving is concerned. It is this kind of industry that the Government should take up in order to fetch more money. It is a waste to leave the carving of elephant tusks to people who happen to be in possession of elephant tusks.

Another point is the use of fats. We know that many animals have fats which can be used for the manufacture of candles. There are no electric lights in the rural areas and the candles which they use are imported. Why could the Government not establish a candle industry ?

If one is allowed to speak on this Head, one will take almost the whole day.

**An hon. Member :** The Minister of Information Benson, is eating fish.

**The Minister of Information** (Mr T. O. S. Benson) : If the hon. Member wants some fish, will he please tell me.

**The Chairman :** That is the Minister of Information's share of fish.

**Mr Muojeke :** I finally come to the question of hides and skins in using them in the manufacture of shoes, sandals and other different kinds of foot wear. We want indigenous industries established in the country which will make use of the hides and skins. If we manufacture these things in Nigeria they will be cheaper and will also help to develop our markets instead of creating markets for overseas businessmen.

**Mr E. D. Akinbowale** (Ijebu North) : Under this Head one has a lot to contribute because Veterinary Services cover wide

grounds. To begin with one has to congratulate the Minister for all that has been done to improve the conditions of our animals. We enjoy good meat now. Many of us could have died by eating diseased animals but now all efforts have been made by Government to take care of our animals. We now have good meat, good fish and so on.

**An hon. Member :** Mr Chairman, the Minister of Information is eating fish in the House.

**The Chairman :** I think that after the Minister of Economic Development had demonstrated the excellence of the fish, he should have put it away. If he had done that the Minister of Information would not have been attracted by its good smell.

**Mr Akinbowale :** A day or two ago a Member mentioned something about the skin of Sokoto Red Goats. The skin of this goat is better than the skin of any other goat in Nigeria. It is very soft and brilliant and traders always prefer to buy this skin. The Government should utilise this skin by setting up industries where it will be the principal raw material. There are many reptiles in this country and their skins can be used also in the manufacture of leather goods. There are also horns and hoofs of animals, much of which are available in large quantities in the North.

**Mr J. U. Odey** (Ogoja East) : On a point of order, the Member for Ijebu North (*Mr Akinbowale*) is not standing properly. He is looking at the gallery. He should address the Chair.

**Mr Akinbowale :** Mr Chairman, I was saying that the horns and hoofs of animals can be used for the manufacture of ornaments. We should preserve our elephant tusks also so that they may be properly marketed. We hear of hairs of goats being used for clothing. I do not see why we cannot try to develop our goats' hairs to be able to produce good hair which could be shorn and used in the manufacture of clothing. Perhaps if expert knowledge is sought something good may result.

I would like to invite the attention of Members to one important thing. At Vom in the Northern Region, many of us have been hearing about the activities of the workers there. Butter is produced in this centre but we still

import butter from other countries. Butter is a product from milk and we have a lot of it in the country. Butter forms an important part of our diet. From experience, I wish to put it before this House that there is difficulty in selling butter which is produced at Vom in large quantities because butter is being imported into the country by foreign firms.

I think the only way to combat this evil is for the Government to restrict the importation of butter into this country. I understand there has been some effort by the Nigerian Creameries Ltd. to publicise the butter they produce in the North but they have not got the support of the Federal Government. I am appealing to the Minister of Economic Development to take this up with the Federal Government to see that the sale of the butter produced in this country is improved and that we do not import butter any more.

I quite appreciate that the Federal Government at a time increased the duty on imported butter to help the local producers, but I dare say that this has not been effective because the dairy industries overseas subsidise their own butter and this makes imported butter cheaper than the butter produced in this country. I think the best way to check these dairy industries overseas is to restrict the importation of butter into this country. If this is done there will be more work for our people in the Northern Region. May I say that this is a job for all our Northern Legislators and they should take it as a point of duty to implore the Federal Government to restrict the importation of butter so that this industry can grow in the Northern Region. I have only come across this snag in our trade because of my visit to the Veterinary Research Station at Vom.

Butter is not only produced in the Plateau Province of Northern Nigeria, butter can also be produced in Bornu, Katsina, Sokoto, Kano and other places in the Northern Nigeria where cattle is reared. So, if there is not enough butter produced in Plateau Province encouragement can also be given to the other cattle producing areas of Northern Nigeria so that this industry can be enlarged and be able to supply the needs of the whole country.

May I finally recommend to the Minister of Economic Development to encourage the Nigerian Creameries Ltd., so that our own butter may be preferred to imported butter.

**The Chairman :** It is now a quarter to twelve and under Standing Orders, I have to put the questions to dispose of to-day's business.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : On a point of order, we have printed in the Order Paper, Members wishing to speak on the different Heads of the Estimates up to Head 40 but according to the Report of the Business Committee we are to stop at Head 35.

May I know if the Chairman is going to put the question up to Head 40 ?

£259,220 for Head 34 — Veterinary — ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 35. — STATISTICS

£315,910 for Head 35 — Statistics — ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

And it being 11.45 a.m. the Chairman left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again. (Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress — to sit again, Monday.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

#### TIV RIOTS

**Mr P. Tarkande** (Iharev Mongov) : On this Motion on Adjournment, may I ask that this House should congratulate the Northern Government and the Nigeria Police Force for the immediate and judicious steps they took in stopping the recent riots in Tiv Division. (Hear, hear)

I would also like this honourable House to send a message of condolence to the families of the policemen killed during the riots, to condemn without reservation the lawlessness of the organised group of rioters and to call upon the Federal and Northern Governments to ban all the organisations concerned with the riots.

I am making this suggestion with all seriousness and with sorrow. My sorrow is due to the fact that my innocent countrymen and six Nigeria Policemen from my constituency were coldly murdered.

[MR TARKANDE]

If I can explain how it all happened to this honourable House. A letter was written by the organised group of rioters to the murdered clan head assuring him of his death in three days time. This information was conveyed to the Native Authority Police Station at Gboko and the Nigeria Police Post at Makurdi. On the exact date, the clan head and five other people were killed before the Nigerian Policemen sent for from Makurdi could arrive at the scene of the alleged murder.

The situation deteriorated and more policemen were brought from Makurdi to control the situation. The policemen were arranged in units of nine, and three policemen were armed in each unit to defend the others. It happened that one of the units of the Nigeria Police came across a gang of rioters who were waiting by the road side. The policemen came down from their van and went towards the rioters.

Ex-servicemen were leading the rioters and their strategy—

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema): On a point of order, surely this is a Regional matter. Are Members going to pass a Motion of Thanks to the Northern Government in the Federal Parliament?

**Mr T. O. S. Benson**: I think this is a Federal matter.

**Mr Speaker**: It seems the Member for Iharev Mongov (*Mr Tarkande*) is asking the Minister of State for Police Affairs to do something about it.

**Mr Tarkande**: The ex-servicemen leading each team of the rioters had already planned how to attack the policemen. As the policemen were advancing towards the crowd the rioters formed a semi-circle round the policemen. The armed policemen were marked by ex-servicemen while the Police Sergeant was reading to the rioters a message from the Government to stop rioting; a sign was given by one of the ex-servicemen and the armed policemen were attacked. Six of the policemen were killed, two escaped and one was shot at the back with an arrow.

The Nigeria Police and the Northern Government should be congratulated because without their intervention thousands of people

living in Tiv Division could have been killed. This would include the Ibos, Hausas and Yorubas living in the Division. Hon. Members should remember the 1961 riots when even people walking on the streets were attacked.

No true Tiv man will level any charge of irregularities against the Police. Despite the fact that six Policemen were killed, the Mobile Policemen on the field were very loyal to their leaders and were very relentless in their attempt to bring the situation under control.

**The Minister of External Affairs** (Dr Jaja Wachuku): Is the hon. Member for Iharev Mongov (*Mr Tarkande*) reading his speech or putting a question to the Minister?

**Mr Takande**: We Members of the Parliament regret the loss of the innocent lives there, and we did our best to prevent the riot. We should now send words of condolence to the wives and children of the policemen and the Government should also express gratitude to the Police for their service to the nation by providing compensation to the dependants and scholarships for their children.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development** (Mr F. U. Mbakogu): My point of order is that the hon. Gentleman should put his question to the Minister; otherwise, at the end of his speech, the Minister will have nothing to say. He is merely giving us information. What does he expect the Minister to say? He should put his question in such a way that the Minister would be able to make a statement.

**Mr Tarkande**: We were told that the riot was caused by the fact that the U.M.B.C. supporters were eager to uphold their rights as human beings. The U.M.B.C. leaders alleged that Clan Heads were oppressing and victimising people and that Clan Heads were administering oaths to people in order to convert them into the supporters of the N.P.C.

**Mr J. A. Akor** (Ahoada North East): I think this hon. Member is just making his maiden speech.

**The Chairman**: You need not tell us.

**Mr Tarkande**: The fact of the case is that all matters connected with tax have been placed under the control of the N.A. Police and the Presidents of the Grade B Courts.

The clan Heads have nothing to do with the question of tax collection at all.

**Dr Jaja Wachuku** : I wonder whether the Member speaking knows that if he spends the whole of fifteen minutes making his speech, the Minister will have no opportunity to reply.

**The Chairman** : I think the hon. Member should realise that within the fifteen minutes remaining, he might require the Minister to reply.

**Mr Tarkande** : I am trying to prove that the U.M.B.C. is the cause of the riot in the Tiv division. It is an old trick of the U.M.B.C. that they cause riots immediately before elections because they believe that this helps them to win elections. During such elections, they peddle the lies that their supporters have been imprisoned by their opponents. The symbol of the N.P.C. is interpreted to mean an instrument which is to be used for beheading the Tivs as had been done in the past by Hausas in the tribal wars. They describe the N.C.N.C. party as a group of dog eaters and claim that contact with them would weaken the procreative power of the Tiv people.

**Minister of State** (Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju) : The Tiv riot started on the 14th of February, 1964, during the festival of Id-el-Fitr. Three squadrons of the Nigerian Mobile Force and five Northern Police units were sent to the area. Six Police officers were killed or presumed killed, seven civilians were killed by the rioters and twelve rioters were killed by the police action.

Arrests so far made by the police operation are 563 and the operations to restore order are still going on. The dependants of the murdered police officers will receive compensation as provided by the Police Act, and it is hoped to supplement this provision by voluntary contributions.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : When the situation was so grave, why was it that an emergency was not declared in that area, and for God's sake, why not give these people their own state ?

**Mr Olarewaju** : There was no cause for a declaration of emergency in the division. The situation was not as tense as that of the

Western Region.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : Since Six police men, seven civilians and twelve rioters were killed, losing many precious lives, a state of emergency should have been declared.

**Mr Olarewaju** : A commission of inquiry to enquire into the circumstances leading to the riots has been set up by the Northern Nigerian Government. On behalf of the Government I welcome this request, and I would like to express the appreciation of the Government for the efficient work done by the Nigeria Police and to express condolence to the families of the dead police officers.

#### PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu) : I want the Minister of External Affairs to make a statement on why the Government has not, at the moment, considered it necessary to accord recognition to the Angolan Government in exile.

The defenceless African brothers of the so-called Portuguese Angola have been fighting for self determination, and for that, they are to-day being oppressed, victimised and ruthlessly massacred by the Portuguese overlords.

Under these unbearable and humiliating circumstances, an Angolan Government was formed in exile in order to liberate their fatherland. Is it not in consonance with declared aims and objectives of the Organisation for African Unity to recognise independent African governments in exile in order to accelerate their efforts to win freedom ? Why then is it that our Government has not recognised the Angolan Government in exile ?

**Dr Wachuku** : I have the great pleasure to inform the hon. Member that the Government has decided to recognise the Angolan Government in exile.

As hon. Members will know, the Government of Nigeria has always given all necessary support to the Angolan nationalists and we are second to none in our support to the nationalists.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, That the House do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at twelve noon.*



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Monday, 6th April, 1964

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr Speaker reported His Excellency's Answer to the Address (17th March) as follows :

*I have received with great satisfaction the expression of your thanks for the speech with which I opened the present session of Parliament.*

(General Acclamation)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The National Anthem

**O.119 Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs what efforts the Government is making to see that our National Anthem is translated into our vernacular languages such as Hausa, Yoruba, Ibo and Efik.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs (M. Aliyu Zungun)**: The Federal Government has already considered this matter and has agreed in principle that vernacular versions of the National Anthem should be made. A Committee comprising representatives of the Regional Governments, the Federal Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Internal Affairs is being set up to consider the details of the proposal.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North)**: I wish to know from the Minister why the *Morning Post* which is a Federal Government paper has been devoting pages for one Nigeria language and leaving the other two main languages of the country unpatronised. There is a column for Hausa in the *Morning Post* being posted to the North. There is no Ibo column in the *Morning Post* being circulated in the East and similarly there is no Yoruba column in the ones circulated in the West. I think that is a misuse of the Federal Government's money.

**Mr Speaker** : This is not relevant.

Prisons

**O.282 Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs how many Prisons he has visited in the Federation since 1962.

**M. Aliyu Zungun** : The hon. Minister has so far visited all the convict prisons in the Regional Headquarters including the three prisons in the Federal capital and it is his intention to pay visits to more prisons as time permits.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East)** : Will the Minister explain to this House if by visiting the prisons he included borstal institutions and, if he did, how many borstal institutions were visited ?

**Mr Speaker** : This question requires notice.

Citizenship Status

**O.283. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many applications he has received from foreigners for naturalisation from the end of 1962 to the present day, how many have been granted or rejected ; and on what grounds.

**M. Aliyu Zungun** : 150 applications for acquisition of Nigerian Citizenship through naturalisation were received during this period. Of these three were approved, and 146 are still under consideration. One application was rejected because the applicant did not have the residential qualification laid down in the law.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West)** : What are the criteria for approval of an application and would the Minister consider the knowledge of at least one Nigerian language as a criterion for becoming a Nigerian citizen ?

**Mr Speaker** : That question requires notice.

Awka Prison

**O.284. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, if he will give urgent consideration to the building of a separate prison accommodation for female convicts in Awka instead of sending them to Onitsha and Enugu to serve their sentences.

**M. Aliyu Zungun** : No. The number of female prisoners involved is so small that it will be uneconomical to build a separate prison accommodation for them.

### Electoral Register

**O.344. Mr E. D. Akinbowale** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, when the Electoral Register for 1964 Federal Elections will be ready; and what are the materials for the compilation of the Electoral Register.

**M. Aliyu Zungun** : It is expected that the Electoral Register will be ready by October or November 1964. In accordance with the Electoral Act, 1962, as recently amended, the list will be compiled from the details of the 1963 census.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South) : Is the Minister aware that this census has not been accepted by the whole country ?

### Prisons

**O.452. Mr V. A. Nwalieji** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many prisoners died in goal between 1st October, 1960 and 1st March, 1964.

**M. Aliyu Zungun** : A total of 247 prisoners died in all the prisons in the Federation between 1st October, 1960 and 1st March, 1964.

**Mr N. D. Ukah** (Owerri North East) : Does the Minister not think that most of these prisoners die because of lack of proper feeding ?

**O.454. Mr J. U. Odey** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, when Ogoja will be made a centre for the recruitment of prison warders.

**M. Aliyu Zungun** : Where there is a general increase in establishment, recruitment is carried out in various centres, including Ogoja, in order to attract all sections of the Nigerian people into the service. Very few vacancies exist at present and these are filled by the Assistant Director of Prisons in the Regions and the Senior Superintendent of Prisons in Lagos Area, from suitable candidates within their respective Regions.

### The National Flag

**O.524. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, if he will introduce a bill to add a red strip to the green and white colours of our National Flag.

**M. Aliyu Zungun** : No, Sir.

**O.585. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, what steps he has so far taken to rehabilitate Messrs R. O. M. Iyizoba, A. U. Okpokang and J. C. Okafor who were deported from Cameroun Republic in December 1961.

**M. Aliyu Zungun** : None, Sir. This is surely a matter for the Regional Governments concerned.

**Dr Okeke** : On a point of order, the essence of asking oral questions is to make supplementary questions and the Minister is not even here to answer the questions. Members who ask oral questions are supposed to ask supplementary questions and when these supplementary questions are not answered I do not see the essence of asking oral questions here.

**Mr Speaker** : As long as there are main questions to be answered I do not think we should give way too much to the supplementary questions.

**Mr Ogbalu** : On a point of order the hon. Minister has not given an answer to Question No. O.585.

**Mr Speaker** : This question has been answered.

### COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

**O.126. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry why he has not introduced before this House the much-needed Hire Purchase Legislation.

**Minister of State** (Alhaji Usumanu Maitambari) : As the Minister has once explained to hon. Members hire purchase is on the Concurrent Legislative List. Consequently the Federal Government cannot legislate on the matter without prior consultation with the Regional Governments where it is considered expedient as in this case that the legislation should be of Federal application.

This initial exercise has, to a great extent, delayed the introduction of the Bill. The provision of the proposed legislation has now been agreed with the representatives of the Regional Governments and it is hoped that the relevant Bill will be introduced during the current session of Parliament.

**Mr P. O. Eleke** (Okigwi South East): We want to know when the Minister is about to consult the Regional Governments on this very important question.

**O.133. Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what encouragement he is giving to private miners; and how many of them have so far been assisted.

**Alhaji Usumanu Maitamari**: Records indicate that so far only two applications for loan have been received from private Nigerian miners. On investigation, both projects were discovered to be economically not viable and the applicants were accordingly informed and advised that, to be able to compete successfully with the major foreign mining companies, it is necessary that they too should pool their resources together and organise themselves into companies.

With the inauguration of the Development Bank any local entrepreneur with a viable project should have no difficulty in securing the necessary financial backing.

**O.215. Mallam Yusha'u A. Mohammed** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry how many industries have been established in Nigeria since the International Trade Fair in 1962, where are they sited; and what are the nationalities of the firms which have established the industries.

**Alhaji Usumanu Maitamari**: Since the International Trade Fair in 1962, 143 industries have been established. These industries are sited as follows:—

Year	Federal Territory	North	East	West	Mid-West	Total
1962 ..	12	5	17	13	3	50
1963 ..	14	16	14	8	3	55
1964 (to March)	5	10	12	10	1	38
						143

All the companies operating in these industries have been registered in Nigeria and are therefore Nigerian according to Law.

**O.216. Mallam Y. Mohammed** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many tons of Cement were imported yearly into Nigeria from January 1961 to February 1964; and from what Countries were they imported.

**Alhaji Usumanu Maitamari**: As the answer to this Question is very long, I shall cause it to be published in to-day's *Hansard*.

*The Answer is as follows:—*

The import of Cement from various countries between January 1961, and September 1963, is as follows:—

1961	(Imports in tons)
United Kingdom .. ..	255,213
Belgium-Luxembourg .. ..	20,438
Western Germany .. ..	16,833
Israel .. ..	56,853
Other Countries .. ..	96,523
Total .. ..	445,860

1962	
United Kingdom .. ..	70,358.5
Belgium-Luxembourg .. ..	6,390.3
Western Germany .. ..	13,129.4
Israel .. ..	50,613.6
Egypt .. ..	40,209.4
Netherlands .. ..	332.0
France .. ..	671.0
Italy .. ..	109.0
Norway .. ..	598.6
Sweden .. ..	5,065.9
Poland .. ..	94,078.8
Czechoslovakia .. ..	33,427.4
Yugoslavia .. ..	5,000.0
United States .. ..	3.0
Lebanon .. ..	14,248.2
Iraq .. ..	100.0
Hong Kong .. ..	5.0
China Mainland .. ..	43.0
Japan .. ..	498.5
Total .. ..	334,881.6

1963 :

(January-September)

	(Import in tons)
United Kingdom .. ..	39,506
Belgium-Luxembourg .. ..	2,919
Western Germany .. ..	7,505
Israel .. ..	5,006
Egypt .. ..	6,600
Netherlands .. ..	40
France .. ..	14
Italy .. ..	2,470
Norway .. ..	1,483
Sweden .. ..	1,515
Poland .. ..	83,958
Czechoslovakia .. ..	23,579
Yugoslavia .. ..	21,146

*House of Representatives Debates*

1689	[Oral Answers]	6 APRIL 1964	[Oral Answers]	1690
United States .. .. .		148	5. West African Breweries—Abeokuta, Western Region.	
Lebanon .. .. .		4,300	6. Guinness (Nigeria) Limited—Ikeja, Western Region.	
Japan .. .. .		2,002		
Brazil .. .. .		1		
U.S.S.R. .. .. .		5,500		
Eastern Germany .. .. .		4,000		
Switzerland .. .. .		2		
<b>TOTAL</b> .. .. .		<b>211,694</b>		

Statistics are not yet available for imports between October-December 1963.

**O.287. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what steps he is taking to protect Nigerian Printing Industry and if he will consider reviewing the law affecting duties on printing materials to enhance the industry.

**Alhaji Usumanu Maitambar** : Consideration has for sometime been given to this matter and in consultation with my hon. Friend, Minister of Finance, we are looking into all the points involved and action will be taken in the near future.

**O.449. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry whether there is a distillery any where in the Republic.

**Alhaji Usumanu Maitambari** : None, Sir. A new company has recently been incorporated which will blend spirits from imported essences and later distil alcohol from the by-products of the sugar industry at Bacita.

**O.456. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry how many beer breweries operate in Nigeria to-date, and where are they located.

**Alhaji Usumanu Maitambari** : The following six breweries are operating in Nigeria :—

1. Nigerian Breweries Limited—Kaduna, Northern Region.
2. Nigerian Breweries Limited—Apapa, Federal Territory.
3. Nigerian Breweries Limited—Aba, Eastern Region.
4. Independent Breweries—Umuahia, Eastern Region.

**Dr Okeke** : Does the Minister intend to allow the opening of more breweries in this country ?

**O.458. Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what industries he proposes to establish in Enugu Province.

**Alhaji Usumanu Maitambari** : None, Sir. The role of the Federal Government in promoting industrial development in Nigeria is described in Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1958.

**O.459. Mr S. O. Ogundipe** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he intends to explore more markets for soya beans, in view of the fact that it grows in large quantity in Northern and Western Regions of the Federation.

**Alhaji Usumanu Maitambari** : It is the policy of the Federal Government to retain Nigeria's old markets and to gain new ones not only for soya beans but also for all our export produce. The Ministry is doing everything possible towards this end and the Minister has himself visited several overseas countries during the past few years, exploring possibilities of finding new markets for our produce.

I should also like to add that as a result of contacts already made at home and abroad, we have been able to negotiate trade agreements with a number of countries. The Minister is optimistic that these will help to increase Nigeria's share of the world trade.

**O.460. Mr S. O. Ogundipe** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry whether he will establish a weaving factory in Ogbomoso in Oshun Division of Western Nigeria in view of the fact that the soil of the Division is most suited for the growth of cotton.

**Alhaji Usumanu Maitambari** : No, Sir. The initiative in establishing industries in the Regions is a matter primarily for Regional Government Development Corporations and private investors. The role of the Federal

[ALHAJI MAITAMBARI]

Government in promoting industrial development in Nigeria is described in Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1958.

**O.461. Mr S. Nnaji** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what plans he has to open up at least one industry in every Federal constituency.

**Alhaji Usumanu Maitamari :** The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to Question O.460 of to-day.

**O.495. Mr J. U. Odey** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he will collaborate with Eastern Nigeria to develop Obudu Ranch Plateau into a place of national holiday resort; and what form his participation will take.

**Alhaji Usumanu Maitamari :** No, Sir. The Nigerian Tourist Association will do so.

**O.589. Mr P. O. Akpan** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what plans he has to introduce a Bill to legalise and perfect the distillation of "illicit gin" from palm wine.

**Alhaji Usumanu Maitamari :** The control of the distillation of spirits in general is a matter for the Ministry of Finance. As the hon. Member is no doubt aware a Bill for the control of distillation has recently been published as Supplement to *Official Gazette Extraordinary* No. 37, Volume 51 of 28th March.

**O.590. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what proposals he has for establishing a paper factory in the country.

**Alhaji Usumanu Maitamari :** A pulp and paper mill is soon to be established at Jebba.

**O.591. Dr B. U. Nzeribe** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how much Nigeria has spent on imported liquor during the 1962-63 financial year.

**Alhaji Usumanu Maitamari :** During the 1962-63 financial year, a total sum of £2,898,055 was spent on imported liquor.

**O.592. Dr B. U. Nzeribe** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how much has Nigeria spent on imported secondhand clothing since 1960.

**Alhaji Usumanu Maitamari :** The amount spent on the imports of secondhand clothing since 1960 is as follows:—

1960 .. .. .	£1,052,484
1961 .. .. .	£1,203,401
1962 .. .. .	£1,153,203
January — October, 1963 ..	£892,659

The figures for the last two months of 1963 are not yet available.

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central) : Will the Minister tell this House what plans he has to make the importation of secondhand clothing unnecessary?

**O.593. Dr B. U. Nzeribe** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how much did Nigeria spend on imported text books from 1st January, 1960 to 31st December, 1963.

**Alhaji Usumanu Maitamari :** The expenditure on imported text books from 1st January, 1960 to 30th October, 1963 is as follows:—

1960 .. .. .	£1,384,788
1961 .. .. .	£1,350,693
1962 .. .. .	£1,041,746
January—October, 1963	£1,068,493.

The figures for the last two months of 1963 are not yet available.

**Dr Nzeribe :** Do the Ministers of Education and Commerce and Industry realise that most of these books imported into Nigeria are trash and that the funds available for the Federal Government of Nigeria are simply being frittered away unnecessarily? Therefore, it is high time the Government establishes a printing press to encourage the production of text books in Nigeria.

**O.595. Mr P. Tarkende** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he proposes to go on a comprehensive tour of Benue Province with a view of finding out for himself what sort of industry could be established in the Province.

**Alhaji Usumanu Maitamari :** Mr Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I intend to take Questions O.594 and O.595 together. It is not necessary for the Minister to undertake a comprehensive tour of Benue Province in order to be able to find out what sort of industry could be established there. Industry, as hon. Mem-

*House of Representatives Debates*

1693

[*Oral Answers*]

6 APRIL 1964

[*Oral Answers*]

1694

bers know, is a concurrent subject under our Constitution and the Regional Governments have responsibility for the industrialisation of the areas under their jurisdiction.

There is, however, very close liaison between the Federal Government and the Regional Governments on matters of industrial development. In addition, experts in the Ministry and from outside are commissioned to undertake feasibility studies of a wide range of industries with a view to determining, among other things, the most economically advantageous location of such industries.

**O.639. Mr J. A. Akor** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many Nigerian farmers have been granted loans by the Federal Loans Board.

**Alhaji Usumanu Maitambari** : The Federal Loans Board has so far made no loans to farmers.

Agriculture did not come within the Board's purview.

**WORKS AND SURVEYS**

**O.217. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when he proposes to tar the road from Gbogan through Oluwada to Ogbaga.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys** (Mr Dominic M. Mapeo) : It would appear that the road is either a Trunk 'B' or a Local Authority Road. It is, therefore, not the responsibility of the Federal Government to tar the road.

**O.218. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when he proposes to widen the Trunk Road 'A' in Shagamu and Abeokuta townships in view of their importance in the commercial life of Nigeria.

**Mr Mapeo** : There are no plans for widening the sections of the road referred to by the hon. Member. The hon. Member will be aware that the roads pass through built-up areas at Shagamu and Abeokuta and very considerable expense will be involved in securing the necessary land if it were decided to widen them.

At the present stage of development of the country's Trunk Road 'A' network, the Government considers it preferable to devote the money that is available to extending the surfaced mileage rather than to local improvements which are not absolutely essential.

**O.219. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when he proposes to tar Odeomu-Ipetumodu Road in view of its importance in the commercial life of Nigeria.

**Mr Mapeo** : The road from Odeomu to Ipetumodu is not a Trunk 'A' road. It is therefore not the responsibility of the Federal Government to tar the road.

**O.289. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he is aware that Nigerian transport and motor owners are prepared to pay road tolls if the roads are brought up to modern standard ; and if he will make a statement.

**Mr Mapeo** : The hon. Member's attention is drawn to the Ministerial Statement made to this House by the hon. Minister of Works and Surveys on the 19th of September, 1963. The Minister again wishes to emphasise that the problem is essentially financial and a balance has to be struck between the competing claims of the various sectors of our national economy.

**O.290. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he has any plan to take over the roads from Owerri to Port Harcourt and Owerri to Elele-Ahoadia.

**Mr Mapeo** : The road from Owerri to Port Harcourt is already designated as a Federal road, but the road from Owerri to Port Harcourt via Elele is a Regional road. There is no plan to take over the latter road.

**O.463. Chief D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether in view of what is happening now he hopes that the Lagos-Ijebu-Benin road will be open to traffic at the time he originally intended ; and whether he will state why the bridges on this road are so narrow.

**Mr Mapeo** : The Minister hopes that it will be possible to open the road to traffic at the end of June 1964, but regrets that due to the

[MR MAPEO]

heavy rains and floods which occurred last year it has not been possible to complete the road as originally planned.

With regard to the narrowness of the bridges, funds are not available for wider bridges. A survey has, however, been undertaken with a view to increasing capacity at these bridge crossings as and when funds become available.

**Mr Speaker** : It is now 10.30 a.m., and no further Questions can be entertained.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

#### I.L.O. 47TH SESSION

**The Minister of Labour** (Chief J. M. Johnson) : I beg leave to make a statement on the 47th Session of the International Labour Conference which was held in Geneva from the 5th to the 26th of June, 1963. Hon. Members would, no doubt, have studied my Report on the Conference which was laid before this House a few days ago.

The need for this Statement arises from the fact that the Conference was marked by certain features which, from the African standpoint, distinguished it from previous conferences. Firstly, it was in the life of the Organisation an historic occasion, it being the first time that an African, in the person of my humble self, was elected President of the Conference. (*Hear, hear*).

Secondly, for African member states it marked a watershed between the old individualistic method of dealing with problems affecting the African Region within the Organisation and the new and effective method of harmonisation of plans which was born at the all African and Malagasy Conference of Labour Ministers initiated by this Government and held in Lagos on the 22nd of March, 1963.

Thirdly, the crisis which overtook the Conference on 12th of June, 1963, as a result of the pressure by the African states members for the withdrawal of the Republic of South Africa as a member of the International Labour Organisation, because of her apartheid policy, constituted, perhaps, the first major challenge to the Organisation to defend the fundamental principles of human dignity and the rights of man on which the Organisation is based.

With regard to my unanimous election as President of the Conference, I should like to place on record the warm and unanimous support which I received from all member States. I am also indebted to the Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association and Workers' delegates for their co-operation. I am glad to report that because of the success achieved by African states members at this Conference as a result of the harmonisation of their plans, the idea of regular consultations by African Labour Ministers has gained very strong ground. A second Conference of African Labour Ministers which was held in Cairo from the 10th to the 12th of December, 1963, decided to explore the possibility of the continued existence of this medium of consultation within the Social and Economic Commission of the Organisation of African Unity.

The issue of the withdrawal of the Republic of South Africa from the membership of the International Labour Organisation dates back to 1961, when the motion by the Government of the Federation of Nigeria requesting the Republic of South Africa to withdraw from the International Labour Organisation was accepted by the 45th Session of the International Labour Conference. Up to 1963 South Africa had not withdrawn from the Organisation. The issue therefore became so acute at the 47th Session as to precipitate a crisis in the course of which all the African delegates supported by some delegates of other nations withdrew from the Conference and I had to resign my presidentship as a protest against the continued participation of South Africa at the Conference. (*Cheers*).

I also made a Statement to the Conference informing it of the decision of the African delegations to take no further part in the Conference. I am happy to say that the immediate effect of this crisis was that the International Labour Office was forced to take positive measures towards the implementation of the resolution of 1961. These measures resulted in the exclusion of South Africa from all I.L.O. committees, full co-operation with the United Nations in matters concerning South Africa and consideration by the Governing Body of the possible amendment of the Constitution and Standing Order of the Conference so as to achieve the objectives

of the resolution on apartheid policy adopted by the Conference in 1961.

I am happy to report that the cumulative effect of these measures is that the South African Government has now decided to withdraw from membership of the International Labour Organisation. By this historic event, the African delegations and all those who oppose the principle of apartheid have not only won a resounding victory but have also saved the fundamental principles of human dignity and the rights of man, on which the International Labour Organisation is based, from being undermined.

This Government will continue to play its full part in the affairs of the International Labour Organisation. We shall uphold the principles on which it was founded and we shall do our best to see that the noble principles of human dignity and respect are maintained. We shall continue to fight the satanic doctrine of apartheid until our African brothers in South Africa are allowed to live, move about freely and enjoy life like human beings in their own country.

I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the delegates of Nigerian Employers and Workers who devotedly identified themselves with the Nigerian Government delegates during the critical moments of the Conference last year. They share the fundamental beliefs of this Government and showed to the world the unity of purpose and action of Nigerians on fundamental issues of international importance.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Last week, when I was replying to the points made by hon. Members on the Head of Estimates on the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, I mentioned the role which my colleague and hon. Friend, the Minister of Commerce and Industry (*Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima*) played in Geneva and with your permission, Sir, the whole House agreed that I should send a cable of congratulations to him. Fortunately for me, he rushed home. I do not know whether he wants to go to Bornu to make some *wuruwuru*.

With your consent, Mr Speaker, and with the consent of the House, I think it will be

more appropriate for me to put it on record, on your behalf, that this House endorses fully the stewardship of the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the points which he made and that we welcome him back home as a good and faithful servant. We pray to God to give him the necessary energy, sense and health to continue to discharge the responsibility which devolves on him. (*Cheers*).

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**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 mid-night.

**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.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### APPROPRIATION (1964-65) BILL

(THIRD ALLOTTED DAY): CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

### HEAD 36.—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

*Question proposed*, That £2,270,360, for Head 36—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): I wish to begin my speech by congratulating the hon. Minister of Education on the manner in which he has been discharging his duties. I am doing this not just for the sake of congratulating him.

The whole country can bear witness to the excellent way in which he has been carrying out the functions of his portfolio both within this country and outside it, particularly in the inter-



[MR OGBALU]

national conferences which he has attended and in the educational matters of this country. This is the essence of my congratulations. I am very happy that the entire House joined me by indicating by way of applause in saying that the work which this our very eminent son has been doing in this country is commendable.

In this connection, I will not fail to congratulate the Minister's Parliamentary Secretary, Mr D. C. Ugwu, who is also the Chairman of the Federal Scholarship Board. It is something to be proud of that during his tenure of office there has been no complaint of nepotism, corruption, and so on, as far as award of scholarships in this country is concerned. This is an evidence that, if given the chance, this young junior minister will prove his mettle in the scheme of things in this country. So, the Prime Minister should take into consideration the excellent work he has been doing. He is indeed a potential Federal Minister.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** : Does the hon. Gentleman want him to replace the present Minister?

**Mr Ogbalu** : Well, he can be given another portfolio.

I will now talk on the problem of leakages of examination papers in this country. Of recent, there have been unparallel leakages of examination papers in this country, ranging from Higher School Certificate to the First School Leaving Certificate examination papers. This is something to be regretted because once the educational standard in this country is questionable, that is to say, if certificates cannot be relied upon as something authentic and something that can really show the standard which the student has reached, then we will be moving towards the brink of educational collapse.

I am, however, confident that the new Nigerian Security Printing Company, when it comes into full operation possibly in November, will be able to handle the printing of all the examination papers in this country, and therefore give them efficient security. It is something to be regretted that even officials in some Departments, including some teachers as well, have aided and abetted this very shameful practice of leaking examination papers to students, thereby foiling and obliterating the efforts of genuine students by making it impossible for accurate comparison to be made.

The educational system of this country would suffer a great blow if people were allowed to parade about with certificates which they never worked for and to which they are not entitled.

In this connection, I have to emphasise the great and mounting occurrence of impersonation in examination rooms. We have often heard of students getting some other people to take examinations for them. The outcome is that when results are out, one is not sure of who actually sat for the examination—whether it was the student or not.

I would suggest that a more efficient method of conducting examinations should be adopted by the Ministry. It might be that the possibility of using passport photographs should be explored or the question of taking students' hand-writing in advance should be used, in order to avoid impersonation at examinations.

In this connection, the West African Examination Council owe this country a great deal of duty in making efficient arrangements for making it impossible for people to take examinations on behalf of others.

The question of location of places where students have to go for examinations is important. It is no use for somebody who lives in Lagos to book his centre in Kano simply because he knows that when he goes there he will be a strange person and nobody will detect him easily.

I think that if people are allowed to choose their centres in the localities in which they are well-known, or in which they live, this wave of impersonation will be minimised. And if it happens that somebody is transferred, say a civil servant, to another part of the Federation, then it will be possible for a more detailed plan to be worked out by which he can transfer his centre.

I have to direct the attention of this House to the ever-increasing number of what I may call "special schools", that is, schools for rich men, schools in which the aristocrats or budding capitalists in this country have arrogated to themselves, the right to educate their children in a particular way. The point I am trying to make is this: since our educational system is being worked by senior civil servants—politicians, supervisors and inspectors of School all have a say in it—it is no use allowing

House of Representatives Debates

1701

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

6 APRIL 1964

Bill: Committee]

1702

certain people to contract out and leave the ordinary schools to the masses, having found a special school for their children.

**Dr P. U. Okeke :** On a point of order, many of us talk about socialism. I hope that my hon. Friend is not advocating on the Floor of this House that we should reach socialism by the back-door. We have not come to the point of stopping people from doing what they want to do as long as they have the money. If the hon. Member wants to advocate socialism, this is not the way to bring it to the Floor of this House.

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Abaja and Ngwo) :** What the Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) is speaking against is the establishment of special schools in Nigeria, which are run by Europeans and which only European children attend.

**Mr Ogbalu :** I am seriously concerned with the educational standard in this country because very often people complain about the falling standard and inefficiency in our schools. I want to give one of the reasons why this falling standard has come to pass. And I say this, that if supervisors of schools, senior public servants, Ministers, politicians, contract out of our general educational system and have their own separate schools for their children, it means that the schools which we meant for the ordinary man-in-the-street will be badly run.

If the supervisors of Schools, the politicians or the Ministers had their children in the ordinary school, certainly they would have more interest in seeing that the ordinary school is well-run. So, whether the schools are built for Europeans alone or whether they are built for Africans alone, or whether they are international and inter-racial, as long as there is discrimination and segregation in our educational system, we are heading towards chaos. That is the point I want to make.

These people who think that they have found a new heaven, or better schools for their children by segregating their children from the children of the masses must be warned that they are sitting on a keg of gun powder. I say this because these children who are being educated outside in inferior schools, when they come up on their own, will certainly not swallow this kind of privileged class.

The Federal Government should make all the schools open to everybody. Schools should not be segregated as they have been in the past.

I wish to make another point, but before I do that I want to say that I am having some interruptions here because some people are interested in these special schools. I can send my children to special schools but I have not done so because I know that it is wrong to do so.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) :** On a point of order, if an ordinary person propounds this kind of social theory it can be understood, but when a person of the calibre and standard of my hon. Friend the Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) begins to preach that we have no right to go to the Federal Palace Hotel, and that we should go to the *Jankara* market to eat because we are all equal, and that our children should eat on the floor and not on the table because there is socialism, then we should take his advice with a grain of salt. He is not sincere.

**Mr Ogbalu :** I am sincere. We have got these special schools in my area and I have children, but I have not sent them to these special schools because I know that it is wrong to do so. It is morally wrong to have special schools and we shall continue to fight against it in this country until these special schools are pulled down from wherever they are located.

**Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East) :** What about the special schools in the United Kingdom ?

**Mr Ogbalu :** We are not in the United Kingdom. I know that this country started on a basis in which almost everybody was on the same level. It was the Harragin Commission which created the special class by giving special emoluments and salaries to special people, and as a result there is now a kind of class distinction in our society.

**Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North) :** On a point of order, what the Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) wants is a capital newspaper headline.

**Mr Ogbalu :** I am not speaking about the masses, I am speaking about myself and I have given my own example. I have said that I have children whom I can send to these special schools, but I have not done so.

**The Chairman :** Order ! The Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) must be allowed to make his contribution.

**Mr Ogbalu :** Let me now direct my attention to another point, and that is the question of technical education in this country. Sometime ago we appealed to the Federal Government to consider the possibility of making education a Federal subject in this country. We are really surprised when the Minister of Education said that unless the Regional Governments gave indications of their willingness to federalise education, nothing could be done.

Well, I want to say that some of the Regional Governments if not all, have given indication that they want the Federal Government to make education a federal subject. The Eastern Regional Government, I think, has given that indication. The Northern Regional Government has also given such an indication. I know that the Federal Government has given a grant of, I think, about £90,000 to the Northern Regional Government to help them in their educational programme.

What other concrete evidence does the Minister require to show him that the Regional Governments would certainly like education to be made a Federal subject? I hope that the Minister will consider this aspect of the country's request and make education a federal subject. Even if it is not possible to federalise the whole educational system of the country at present, the Minister can take over higher education.

All our universities, except the universities of Lagos and Ibadan are managed by Regional Governments, and already, the burden of the Regional Governments has increased in the field of elementary and secondary education. I think that the Federal Government should take over the financial responsibility of our universities.

I now want to speak about our Teachers' Training Colleges. It is no question of where to get money to build these training colleges. I know that the Government has been finding money to spend on some other subjects which are not as vital as this. Nobody would like his son to be deprived of knowledge or something that would make the son somebody in life. This is one of the reasons why we have

recommended that the Federal Government should consider the possibility of taking over at least higher education in this country.

I now want to talk about technical education. Everybody knows that both the Federal and the Regional Governments came into the field of technical education very late with the result that our educational system is more or less lop-sided. There has been too much emphasis on the three R's, that is the literary form of education and it is only of recent that the technical aspect of education is being introduced into our educational system.

I am therefore appealing to the Federal Government to consider the possibility of building more technical grammar schools throughout the Federation. These technical secondary schools would help to equip our boys and girls with the necessary skill and ability to fit them into life after their school life.

Already, some Regional Governments have started to build secondary schools, but I do not think that those they are building now will be enough. If the Federal Government can, within our Six-Year Development period, build at least three or four technical secondary schools throughout the Regions, that will go a great length to equip our children with the necessary knowledge needed to build a great Nigeria.

The problem in this country to-day is the absence of skilled man-power and this is responsible for the impossibility of establishing industries. If our schools should start to turn out people who have the necessary skill to man industries, then the Government would hasten to establish more industries. People with technical knowledge will then be able to fit into these industries and they will find that they are not a square peg in a round hole.

I therefore hope that more emphasis should be laid on technical education for our children. We can do this by awarding more scholarships tenable at universities in countries which we know are very good at technology.

There are some private people who are ready to establish technical secondary schools. They have got the money, but their problem is that they cannot get the teachers who have the requisite qualification or people who have been taught or brought up in technical line to teach

in these schools, with the result that the expansion of technical education to-day is really difficult. If we have teachers who can teach technical subjects it will be easy for some of our philanthropists to establish technical schools in this country. So, if the Federal Government can award more scholarships for technical education it will go a great length in spreading technical education throughout the country.

I will now speak on another aspect of our education, and that concerns our school syllabuses. Very often we say that our syllabuses are not up to the standard we would want them to be. The syllabuses of some schools still have some vestiges of colonialism in them. Now, let me illustrate one aspect of what I am trying to say.

The West African Examinations Council prepares a syllabus for higher education in public affairs—that is Constitution. The Constitution that students are taught in our schools is the British Constitution. There is no reference whatsoever to the Nigerian Constitution.

One finds a student who is doing his post-secondary education always learning something about the Queen's procession, about paraphernalia in Westminster, the antiquity of the House of Commons and so on, without knowing anything about how the Nigerian Constitution was written, or even what are the rights and duties of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I think what should happen is this. Even if we have to study the British Constitution since the House of Commons which is the mother of our Parliament should set the standard, there must be a section of the Nigerian Constitution which should be studied *pari passu* with the British Constitution. This is very vital and I think the Minister of Education will take note of this.

I find it really painful to see that our students continue to study the British Constitution without knowing anything about the Nigerian Constitution at all. In an examination, if a student begins to talk about the Nigerian Constitution he will be looked upon as a parochial person. I think that the West African Examination Council should be advised to make its syllabus to have Nigerian outlook.

The same thing applies to the question of Nigerian history. Our children study the

history of other countries, however minute, right from the times of the Babilonians to the times of the Romans without any provision for Nigerian history in our syllabus for schools. It is true that of recent there has been provision for African history, but this is merely an optional paper. I think that in our elementary and secondary schools effort should be made to give a wide scope for the introduction of Nigerian history to be studied by students.

**Mr U. O. Ayeni (Afenmai North West) :** On a point of information.

**Mr Ogbalu :** I am not yielding to that point of information.

**The Chairman :** What section of the Standing Orders is the Member trying to raise ?

**Mr Ayeni :** It is Order 22.

**The Chairman :** Will you read the Order please.

**Mr Ayeni :** African history is not optional. It is alternative. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Ogbalu :** The Member is quoting wrongly. He is teaching in a Teacher Training College; he does not know what is going on in a secondary school. It is not an alternative paper. I have the authority on that, so I do not countenance his point.

Let me direct my attention to other aspects of our education, and that is the question of Nigerianisation in our educational system. It is quite true that we still lack teachers with requisite certificates, mainly graduates. But in view of our adverse imbalance of trade, I feel that the continuous and continued importation of expatriate teachers to teach even in Secondary One or the Infant Classes is something that should be considered inimical to the progress of this country. There are some parts of the Federation where expatriates have been imported while there were qualified Nigerians who could teach.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) :** This thing is becoming a permanent feature. Nigerian graduates do not want to teach, and our children must be educated. That being the case, we must import more teachers.

**Mr Ogbalu :** I am very sorry to get this type of remark from my hon. Friend because it is not only a question of graduate teachers.

[MR OGBALU]

There are places where higher elementary teachers can teach and we find expatriates being imported into the country to teach there. That is quite wrong. There are Nigerian teachers who are not employed—Grade II, Senior Teachers, and so on. They have not got employment, yet we find expatriates, from say, India or other countries, being imported to this country to teach our children. I think this is wrong because such people are trying to make our balance of trade never to be what we wish it to be.

**Mr S. O. Kolade** (Oyo South): We are gaining from these expatriates. They come here to teach our children. Secondly, some of these people are being paid by their own countries.

**Mr Ogbalu**: The point just made by the hon. Member is really not worth a grain of salt. It is a well-known fact in this country that some countries are helping us by sending their people and giving us loans. If you study the salaries which these people who are sent abroad earn, the accommodation which they are given and the furnishing of their houses, and then total the cost, you will find that they had already, through the back-door, withdrawn the loans which they have given to us.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice** (Mr R. B. K. Okafor): In view of the dispute among teachers in this House, may I request the Chairman to clear them.

**The Chairman**: I would be cleared too.

**Mr Ogbalu**: I am very grateful for your remarks. Let me take the question of research work in the universities. By this time Nigeria should have been able to produce sufficient lecturers in our universities, if in our first university, the University of Ibadan, sufficient emphasis was laid on research work. But it was then said that Nigerians, even where they obtained the First Class or Second Class, Upper Division, degrees could not be given the opportunity to do research work. The result is that to-day we have a great lack of lecturers of Nigerian origin.

Thanks to the University of Nigeria which showed, when it started to function, that Africans can be given the opportunity to do

research work. That inspired and stimulated other universities, and to-day more emphasis is being laid on research work. I hope that the Minister will take this point and encourage the universities to embark on more and intensive research work in order to turn out lecturers who will man our universities.

The University of Lagos is just coming up I hope that as soon as possible the necessary climate and condition will be given for research work to be started without waiting until the university starts to age.

Coming to some other of our institutions, I think it is anachronistic for us to refer to our Federal College here as King's College. The name is colonial. I think we ought to have seen that.

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central): Some of us here who are educationists would like to contribute on this particular Head. My hon. Friend has exhausted his time.

**The Chairman**: He has not exhausted his time.

**Mr Ogbalu**: The point I am trying to make is that names like King's College and Queen's College should completely be obliterated from our institutions and these substituted with better and more inspiring names. If I am given the opportunity to suggest names, I shall suggest many. This is very important. The relics or vestiges of colonialism should be obliterated right from now.

I am surprised that the King's College which is very close to us here has not been completely Nigerianised. I was thinking that the principalship of the King's College ought to have devolved on a Nigeria since we have got people who can man the King's College. We can employ expatriates if need be, but the manning of the institution should certainly be Nigerianised.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): I do not think it is right for the hon. Gentleman to point out a college like King's College and to talk about the Principal. The Principal is more or less a Nigerian. Though he is a European he is better than the Member who is a Nigerian. He is a good-natured fellow. He loves our nation. He loves our people and the Member is talking ill of him here where he cannot defend himself. This is entirely wrong.

**Mr Ogbalu :** This is not a matter of picking animosity with the Principal. I do not even know him in person. I am talking on principle and that is what concerns me. I am not after favouritism. If the Member for Ijebu South is a friend or brother to the Principal in question he could go and tell him what I am saying. I do not bother anything about him.

I wish to direct attention to agricultural education in this country.

**Mr E. A. Odo (Idoma West) :** The Member had been addressing the House for more than thirty minutes now.

**The Chairman :** Will the hon. Member please wind up.

**Mr Ogbalu :** I know that since there are so many capitalists in this House, anything socialistic would seem an anathema to them.

I was talking about the agricultural institutions in this country. It is very important for us to teach our boys and girls in this country to feed themselves. Emphasis should be laid on the improvement of our agricultural institutions. It is true that there is not enough land in Lagos for farming. But I think the Federal Government should make special grants to the Regional Governments in order to enable them expand their agricultural education programmes in their Regions. Without this agricultural education, it will be difficult for us to teach our children the effective ways of farming.

I beg to support.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai) :** I rise to support the expenditure on this Head. I also join the Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) in congratulating the Minister of Education, first of all, on rejecting the Motion to federalise Education.

The Missionaries in this country should also be congratulated on the role they have played in the education of the sons and daughters of Nigeria. They have, in addition, made it impossible for the power-drunk politicians to introduce politics into education. This is very important.

I said previously that I was opposed to the demand that education should be made a Federal subject. My only opposition to that is on financial basis. We are all agreed on the

fact that education is a very heavy burden on the Regional Governments, and the Federal Government is already giving them a lot of grants to make the burden lighter. It is not practicable to federalise Education because of the administrative difficulties that it is likely to bring with it. Even as education is a Regional subject now, it will be found that it is not the Government that is directly involved in it. It is the voluntary agencies that organise and run the whole thing. So if Members think of the administrative difficulties, it will surely be seen that it is not practicable to federalise education.

**Mr P. O. Eleke (Okigwi South East) :** On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman is trying to mislead this House. He is trying to tell us that the Federal Government cannot control voluntary agencies.

**Mr Obi :** I have a few suggestions to make which will ensure uniformity in our standards of education. First of all, it is my view that there should be a Federal Advisory Board on Education to advise the Federal Government as well as the Regional Governments on matters of methods whereby there will be uniformity in education. For example, this body should advise that there should be one syllabus even for primary schools. All schools should follow such a syllabus and this will bring uniformity in elementary education.

Teacher Training Colleges should have the same syllabus and they should do the same examinations throughout the country. The West African Examinations Council has been one unifying factor for the secondary schools all over the country, so that there is no longer any need to federalise secondary education. There should be one syllabus for primary schools throughout the country.

As for the Teacher Training Colleges, they should take the same examinations in all subjects. The question of selecting only three subjects, namely, School Method, Arithmetic and English, as the only subjects to unify the whole Teacher Training Colleges, is not satisfactory. They should take the same examinations in all subjects.

It is true that scholarships are awarded on merit, as we have been told, but this is a Federal Government, and the Government should cater for all the sections of the community.

[MR OBI]

In this respect, I would like to suggest, as is done in the Regions, that scholarships be awarded to constituencies. There may be a constituency where there is nobody qualified to get a scholarship for university education. What happens in the Regions is that the money is given to the constituency and it is used for payment of fees for secondary school children in such backward areas.

Scholarships are thus awarded to children who are in secondary schools so that everybody benefits from the Government's scholarship scheme, while those who qualify for university scholarships enjoy them. In this way, people in the more backward areas are given the opportunity to train their own children too.

On the question of Advanced Teacher Training Colleges, we have appealed to the Government to see that people are admitted into the Federal Advanced Teacher Training College from all sides of the country. But the excuse we were given before was that there is a training college in the West and so priority was given to students from the North, East and Lagos. I am now appealing to the Government that since the Mid-West is now a separate Region, and there is no Advanced Teacher Training College in that Region, the Government would please admit Mid-Westerners in this school.

If the Government is not prepared to do this, perhaps it would be nice for them to help these Regions to build their own schools by giving them grants and encouragement. All I am saying is that the Mid-West should be considered when admitting students into the Lagos Federal Advanced Teacher Training College during this year.

I would now like to refer to unemployment. People say there are no Grade Two teachers. It is now becoming difficult for Grade Two teachers to get employment. I would like the Federal Government, in consultation with the Regional Governments, to go into this matter because in a few years teachers will be faced with unemployment. Of course, this does not concern teachers alone. There are also graduates who find it very difficult to get jobs. There is a case of a graduate coming out from the university and roaming about joblessly for six months.

I do not know whether the Minister is aware of the fact that some sort of inferiority complex exists among our graduates. Graduates from some universities are regarded as inferior to their counterparts from other universities. They feel that some universities are better than others.

**Several hon. Members :** Which universities does the hon. Member mean? Mention names.

**Mr Obi :** They say Nsukka University is inferior.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North) :** On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman is misleading the House. He too is an inferior man. He is not a graduate. The University of Nigeria, Nsukka, is producing graduates and all the graduates are employed in this country.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias) :** May I say that hon. Members should not really crack jokes in this House about the integrity of our educational institutions. I happen to know that graduates from Nsukka have in fact been top in the list of candidates to be absorbed into certain sections of the civil service in this country.

**The Minister of Education (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku) :** In addition to what my Colleague, the Attorney-General has said, I wish to inform hon. Members that all universities in the world belong to one family, and that the University of Nigeria Nsukka is not inferior to any. Even in the course of post-graduate work, Nsukka graduates have not been found educationally lacking. The ireducational growth is one which is not doubted by any university. So Nsukka is as good as Ibadan. It is as good as the University of London, Cambridge or Oxford. These expensive jokes should not be cracked.

**Mr Obi :** It was not my intention to annoy anybody here and it is because I have mentioned a university from a section of the country that the people are annoyed. If I had mentioned another one they would not have been as annoyed as they are now.

**Minister of State for Air Force (Alhaji Hashimu Adaji) :** I think we are trying to cover a certain fact. If the hon. Gentleman is serious about his allegation, he must be able to name such a student who has been refused

employment because he came from an inferior university, otherwise the hon. Gentleman should withdraw.

**Mr Obi** : I will not withdraw anything.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe** (Orlu West) : Point of Order, Mr Chairman.

**The Chairman** : If the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) has any point of Order to raise will he please let us know which Order he is raising ?

**Mr Obi** : Mr Chairman, I would like to say—

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central) : Point of Order, Sir.

**The Chairman** : What Order, Mr Amadi ?

**Mr Amadi** : Order 27. The hon. Gentleman, the Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi*) has completely misled the House. I would like to inform the House that the Nsukka University—(*Interruptions*)

**Mr Chairman** : Order, order. This Order 27 relates to the raising of points of Order. There is no breach of Order 26.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : Point of order, Sir. I am referring to Standing Order 28 (5) which reads as follows :

*Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking.*

I agree that the speech of the hon. Gentleman, the Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi*) is affecting the other side of the House, but I am challenging any speaker there—be he a professor or a doctor—to a public debate on any subject that the speaker can suggest and I shall prove that these doctors come from inferior universities. I challenge any of them there to any public debate.

**The Chairman** : Order, order. I would not like to apply the suggestion made by the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice that teachers who seem to be quarrelling should be ordered out of the House. I would not like to do that, but it should be remembered that this is not a school.

**The Minister of Education** (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku) : I believe that the hon. Gentleman, the Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi*) is an educationist and a very reasonable man,

and that a serious allegation of this type, which cannot in any case be proved by him, should have been withdrawn so that this contention might stop. I have to reiterate that the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, is not inferior to any other university in the world. I have said this before and I still want to emphasise it. But if he knows of any student, any graduate from Nsukka, who is discriminated against in any department, he should say so, so that that department could be asked to say why such a treatment has been meted out to the graduate.

**Mr Obi** : I am intelligent enough to the extent of knowing what I can say and what I should say. I do not want to be taught that.

I would like to talk a bit on examination leakages. I am suggesting that the Government should take drastic steps to ensure—

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : On a point of order, I would like to draw the attention of the House to Standing Order 26 (2) which reads thus :

*A Member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto.*

I submit that the efficiency of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, is not under discussion here, and to bring on the Floor of this House accusations that the University of Nigeria is inferior because one boy who went there could not find a job, without substantiating such accusations with facts, is a slur on the integrity of university education in this country, and to use the privilege of this House to come there and impugn the efficiency and integrity of a university in this country is unparliamentary and irrelevant.

**The Chairman** : I do not know whether the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) is a doctor of laws, but if he is not, of course we can excuse him for making this argument. I must say, however, that this matter is relevant to a Head of Education and we must allow the Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi*) to continue his speech.

**Mr Obi** : Mr Chairman, I feel that with the establishment of the Printing Company in Nigeria we are looking forward to a time when there will be no more examination leakages—



**The Chairman :** Order, order, will the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) resume his seat, please. We must stop insisting or raising unnecessary points of Order.

**Mr Obi :** Mr Chairman, I am saying that with the establishment of the Printing Company in Nigeria we are looking forward to a day when there will be no more leakages of examination questions. People cannot imagine the amount of inconveniences that these leakages cause those conscientious students because when examination questions leak, people who are not responsible for it, people who have not come in contact with the questions, are made to suffer. This is the point I am stressing.

As for impersonation during examinations I support the idea that there should be passport photographs to accompany applications for all examinations both on the secondary school and university levels. The university level case applies to those people who do external degrees. The practice of impersonation in examinations is something done throughout the country and it is rather a very bad thing if we cannot rely or place any value on certificates that are obtained through examinations held in this country because of people going to take examinations on behalf of others.

I beg to support.

**Mr B. A. Ajayi (Ekiti South East) :** I beg to support this Head and in doing so, I must have to praise the Minister of Education. He is a very able, unassuming, approachable and friendly Minister. He is very sound and up-to-date. We followed his activities all over the country and abroad, and we found him to be the right man in the right place. But this praise cannot all go to the Minister of Education alone. He has a very efficient Permanent Secretary who should have been a Minister by now.

This gentleman, as the Minister's adviser, is a very efficient member of the Ministry of Education. Above all, he is a very brilliant and a most able educationist. This person is Chief S. O. Awokoya. To grapple with the educational problem now facing the country is not an easy thing, but the way the Minister of Education is coping with the complicated problem of education in this country at this time is very encouraging.

The greatest problem facing us in this country at the moment is unemployment and this unemployment is the product of our very bad educational programme. This is not our fault because we inherited a lot from the colonial era. The emphasis on the three R's, and the need to produce men who will do the white collar job, have narrowed down our curriculum. Time has changed—and most tremendously—and it is very important that we should try as much as possible to change with the time.

For the first time, the Minister of Education is considering the need to introduce or to lay more emphasis on technical education. We have said this several times and I want to emphasise the fact that the present *tempo* is not sufficient if really we want to arrest unemployment in this country. We must be very radical, and very quick, otherwise, unemployment will continue indefinitely. There is a lot of wastage in our educational system.

I pointed out some time ago why we should not have an Arts section in the University of Lagos when there is already one in the University of Ibadan. Art is much easier to study externally or privately and it would be a good idea for the money intended to be wasted on the Arts section in the University of Lagos to be converted to something else. We also made appeals to the Minister of Education about inter-regional secondary schools. The answer that I received was not satisfactory.

I pressed that these inter-regional secondary schools should be made technical schools rather than grammar schools and now that the Minister is thinking of having more technical schools in the Federal Territory, I hope he will be able to think again as to the wisdom of giving us technical inter-regional colleges. His argument was that he wanted grammar schools of the type of King's College.

I must assure him that there are many very good grammar schools in the provinces. We have Loyola College in Ibadan, Christ's College at Iddo Ekiti, Christ the King's College and Dennis Memorial Grammar School in the East. All these are first-grade grammar schools. Even without the equivalent of the Staff position staffing in King's College in such schools, their results are very satisfactory. All that King's College can boast of is its history and tradition.

House of Representatives Debates

1717

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

6 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1718

Many of these schools are not all that old but all the same they had a very good start, a start which was as good as that claimed by the King's College, Lagos. So, we do not want a duplication of grammar schools. We want technical schools.

Now that Nigeria has four Regions—and one inter-regional school—is proposed for Sapele in the Mid-West—we in the Western Region are looking forward to a fourth inter-regional school in the West and that I hope the Minister will be kind enough to establish in my constituency.

It is good that Government is trying to improve the quality of teachers. The setting up of the Advanced Teacher Training College is most welcome. We must be careful about our intake. Opinions differ as to the size of institutions. In the grammar school, it is much easier to have a very large number of pupils but in Teacher Training Colleges, I think, it is a different situation.

The Teacher Training Colleges are concerned with the moulding and the building up of individuals. These require more observation and closer supervision by the Head of such institutions. The Principal of an institution must be able to know the *pros* and the *cons* of every pupil and for this reason I do not welcome the idea of mass production of teachers.

People are not commodities which we sell in shops; they are not commodities which must look alike; they are individuals and each must reflect his own identity. For this reason, I hope that this Advanced Teacher Training College will not be a huge institution with thousands of students. This is much easier in England where the environment is different. We are just starting here. We can produce teachers but what matters is the quality of teacher we produce. There, I hope that the Minister will do his best to ensure that this new experiment starts very well.

One observation, there is, which I think I should make under this Advanced Teacher Training College. It is that it has no Principal. I find there is a Vice-Principal in the Head here. I wonder how an institution should have no Principal, unless perhaps, it is an appendage of another institution. I think the Minister will be able to explain that later on.

I am happy about the progress the Federal Science School has made. It has done a very excellent work and I wish the work continued. Again, in these Estimates, I find that five senior lecturers on £2,000 each consolidated, have been eliminated this year. It was in the Estimates last year, but it is not there now. Furthermore, 28 part-time lecturers are employed.

I appreciate the fact that the Minister would want to use local materials. There are many educationists and experts in Lagos and their services are indispensable but I would rather want the emphasis to be laid more on permanent staff than on part-time lecturers.

After all, these part-time lecturers have their own jobs and if you can throw your whole weight on your job, I do not see how it will be possible for you to be able to put equal weight on your part-time job. I hope those concerned will be able to watch that aspect and rectify it. That is my own personal opinion.

It has been argued whether we should federalise our educational system or not. The advantages and the disadvantages are almost equal. The French have a centralised educational system and it is very efficient. But there is the difficulty of regimentation. We are told that variety is the spice of life. If the whole thing is uniform all over the country, it becomes a routine. Either you want to go to a school to see one thing or to another to see something different. If the objective is that you pass the examination, that is sufficient. But the idea is that you have to go along as conveniently as you can at your own pace but to arrive at the same goal. I think that is what is usually important. At the same time we differ in our approach to Education, but I think that once we federalise education it means that orders must come straight from Lagos to every other place in the country.

Somebody has just said that it makes no difference but I think it does because if the relationship becomes impersonal, then it means that you cannot use your initiative. You cannot alter what Lagos says but if Ibadan, Enugu and Kaduna found it difficult to arrive at a point or a policy, then there would be a variation. That variation is due to the individuality. So, that is just the difference.

[MR AJAYI]

All the same, if really we want the unity of this country, it is an experiment worth trying to a certain level. If all of us can work anywhere in the country—a man from Maiduguri can work in Lagos, a man from Port Harcourt can work in Sokoto—well, we shall be the better and the happier for it. As it is now that education is left with the Regions, it has come to light that the various Regional Governments spend a lot of their revenue on education. Education ought to have been one of the items to be shouldered by the Federal Government for if the West slices about forty-five *per cent* of its revenue for education; the East thirty-five *per cent*, and the North twenty-five *per cent*, naturally the pace of their economic development would be hampered. So it is on this question of education that the Federal Government must try as much as possible to subsidise the Regional Governments.

I heard somebody saying that education is a regional matter. That is correct but in the United States of America education is also a matter for the states, and their Federal Government subsidises the states heavily.

I think that rather than allow the Regions to waste so much of their revenue on education the Federal Government should come to their rescue. And the fact that education is a regional matter does not mean that the Federal Government should be indifferent.

A gesture was made last year when the Federal Government gave a grant to the Northern Government to help them in the running of their primary school education. I am not sure if such a gesture went to the West and the East as well. I want the Federal Government to assist the Regional Governments in this matter of education so that they can find enough money to execute their development programmes. If this is done, the Federal Government will be happier for it.

These are the few points I have to make.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : I would like to begin by agreeing with the other Members who paid tribute to the Minister of Education and his Parliamentary Secretary.

I think these two gentlemen have worked very co-operatively and very remarkably, and their efforts have supplemented each other.

I would like to say that if there is anywhere to find an example of co-operation we should go to the Minister of Education and his Parliamentary Secretary.

I would now like to make a few observations about the remarks made by earlier speakers. The Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) made very unkindly remarks about the expatriates working for us in this country.

**Mr Ogbalu** : On a point of order, I never spoke unkindly about them. I was only looking at it from the economic point of view. I maintain that it is not good, when we have available grades two and three and senior teachers who are Nigerians, to substitute them with expatriates. And I pointed out that in a certain part of the Federation this practice is obtaining and that it contributes a great deal towards our imbalance of trade because they constitute invisible imports into this country.

**Dr Okeke** : My hon. Friend, Mr Ogbalu, has used up his time and now he wants to use my time.

We invited these expatriates out here and they are working for us. If at any time we do not want them we should ask them to go and they will go. So whilst they are here at our invitation we must allow them things that would make their lives worthwhile. To complain that they send their children to specialised schools which they pay for and the staff of which they provide according to their own way of life, is unfair. We cannot force them to live according to our own standards merely because they are working for us.

I would like to join the Minister of Education and the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice who have explained that the University of Nigeria is very efficient, and that the standard compares with the standard of any other university anywhere in the world. There has never been a time in this country that our universities are inferior to any other university in the world, and our graduates have performed very grandly too.

House of Representatives Debates

1721

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

6 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1722

We must acknowledge the work done by this young university at Nsukka because its graduates have topped all others in competitive examinations set for all graduates from the other universities in this country.

The Member for Ekiti South East (*Mr Ajayi*) wanted education to be decentralised. I agree with him entirely. We want the Federal Government to take over the financing of education, but not the controlling aspect of it. It is always said that "he who pays the piper calls the tune," but in education he who pays the piper should not call the tune.

I say this because the grass roots or the strength of education comes from the community, and when you give orders from the top then you are not educating in the real sense of it.

Education must not be controlled from the top because it has to do largely with the culture of the areas where the schools are located.

Our system of education—and I would like the Minister to listen very carefully to this—needs overhauling. We must overhaul the system with bold imagination because the piece of paper we call certificate is still in control of our educational system and its curriculum. The certificate dictates the tune, sets the pace and dominates the curriculum, in that both the teacher and the student are slave to it. Students cram in order to pass an examination, and when they have no brains to cram they resort to stealing the examination papers.

Much money and resources have been wasted by our various governments to print substitute examination questions after the first ones had leaked out. We must provide incentives to learning other than the certificate because at present all our motivation and stimulus about education are centred round the piece of paper called certificate.

There must be other ways of giving incentives to learning other than by getting a certificate. We must look for talents needed for the work this nation needs to be done. We want jobs done, not certificates.

In fact there are many people who have certificates to-day but who have no jobs to do, whereas there are many jobs around. The other day the Minister of Establishments said

that there were 1,100 vacancies in all the Ministries, and I was reading a report by the Ministry of Labour some time ago where it is stated that there are 2,250 registered applicants—

**Mr Ogbalu :** With what qualifications ?

**Dr Okeke :** With school certificate, and that was in the report of the Ministry of Labour.

Something must be wrong with our system of education and it must be remedied. We want certificates instead of skills. With the increase in the number of boys and girls in our institutions we shall be making a great mistake if we go ahead educating our children like we did in the colonial days.

We must borrow a leaf from other civilised countries, and depart from the colonial educational system with its atomization its splitting of areas of study into small compartments and its aggrandizement of the arts and the sciences as the only gentleman's education that could be offered.

We must establish comprehensive high schools. The essence of a comprehensive high school is that all fields—commercial, technical, agricultural, secretarial, art, sciences will be found in one institution. This system has two advantages. It gives these boys a chance to take a common core and quest around to discover their talents.

Once they have discovered their talents, which may be, secretarial, technical, commercial, plumbing or carpentry, they can get jobs when they leave the comprehensive high school, because many of them would be qualified for employment, while others would be qualified to enter into the universities.

Now our secondary schools are a slave to our system of education. Our boys go there to prepare for upward movement into the universities. The result is that when they come out they want employment as a temporary measure before they go into universities, but they are not qualified for any work. We must diversify our curriculum.

This is the age of science, trade and industry. Our people cannot conceive the idea of some one who had been to school, working as a trader or a carpenter. They think that anyone who had been to school, must *ipso facto* be employed in an office. That is the wrong notion which we have inherited from our

[DR OKEKE]

colonial masters. We inherited a system of education by which the gentleman uses only the pen and not his hands. This kind of education is worse than no education at all. We are giving our children the wrong education which we inherited from our colonial masters. We must break with it. I want this country to be proud of many secondary schools, comprehensive high schools, universities, higher technical colleges, and teacher training colleges. The teacher training college would disappear as soon as the universities could absorb its functions.

We want to educate our children to be able to do the work in this country. We must upset drastically and overhaul entirely the system of education which we now use. It is an inheritance which we do not want to keep.

The Federal Minister of Education should pave the way because he is the head of all the Ministries of Education. He is the chief man, cool-headed and painstaking, with his able Permanent Secretary; he can do it. He must summon a nation-wide committee of educationalists to review the country's educational system and establish a curriculum according to the needs of this country. We are taking these difficulties piecemeal.

Many people have spoken pointing out the loop-holes in the various subjects taught in our schools; history, for example was mentioned. A review of our whole curriculum is overdue. We are independent and the colonial curriculum cannot sustain our education.

The Ashby Report surveyed the man-power needs in this country. If we continue to educate our children and lay emphasis on certificate instead of skill in order to meet the target set out in the White Paper—a target of 10,000 by 1970 what will happen is that by that date, we shall have 10,000 who have certificates but who are not qualified to do the work that we need. Then they will glut the market and agitate; they want job but we cannot give it to them.

Now we must begin to-day to redirect the system of education to give every boy and girl a chance to discover their talents while in comprehensive high school so that when they go into universities they will find their bearing in their various classes.

Experience has shown that we have all kinds of talents—people that could be carpenters, plumbers, traders, teachers, clerks, lawyers, professionals, *et cetera*—but our mistake is that we do not give our children a chance to discover themselves. The result of this mistake is that a boy comes to school and crams and crams and cries over it because he is not qualified. He is a square peg in a round hole. I must warn that if we continue in the vein we are going now we will reach a saturating point.

Indiscipline in schools throughout the country is a growing concern to all school authorities. In fact it should be the concern of all authorities. The National Council of Education, the National Universities Commission, and Ministers of Education must look into the matter and lay down strict rules to deal with this menace. Educational process is a very painful process. It involves among other things, painful mental work arising from constant application of self to study. This is the discipline of education.

Some of our boys and girls think that going to school is like going to a night club or that they want it to be like a night club, where they will do as they please. When examination comes they find that they do not know enough to pass and as a result they steal examination questions.

There is one disturbing note that I want to sound about the King's and Queen's colleges. It is high time the Minister of Education cut down the number of graduates who are teaching in these colleges. Man-power and money are wasted and I will tell you how. The number of these graduates could be cut down and redistributed in secondary schools on secondment throughout Lagos.

It is indefensible that we vote so much money to pay the salaries of 30 graduates plus 43 other members of the staff. We have a total of 73 members of the teaching staff. These are training a double stream of three hundred students each just like any other college.

In other secondary schools like St. Gregory's College, and the St. Finbarr's College they do the same work with a minimum of 3 graduates and 20 other members of the staff. There are 28 graduates and 37 members of the staff in the Queen's college — a total of 65. Why should we be spending money in this way.

We cannot finance inequalities.

This Parliament cannot use public funds to pay for inequalities because these two institutions of learning are not doing better than any other school using three or four graduates. Talents are being wasted. Money is wasted. We must get all these monies out and use them for something else.

We are spending more than £43,000 in Queen's College and £40,390 for the Citizenship Centre. The Minister must distribute the excess graduates in Queen's College and King's College to all other schools in Lagos.

I was looking at Head 36 and I saw Handicraft Centres, Domestic Science Centres in Lagos. The Handicraft Centres have six manual instructors plus one handicraft instructor. That is all we are doing for handicraft in this country. Yet, we are spending £40,000 in one college alone simply to prepare our boys and girls for arts and science. But where we need our boys and girls to be trained only six manual instructors have been provided for them. Yet we cry that our children are running away from our culture and going to this or that place.

Hon. Members should take a look at the Domestic Science Centre. What have we done for our girls? Girls' education in this country has been relegated to the background. After all, there are equal number of boys and girls in every population.

I hear some hon. Members say that girls are more than boys. If girls are more numerous, yet in the field of education they are relegated to the background. Ninety-five per cent of educational facilities are used for the boys only. Look at the Domestic Science Centre in Lagos, we have only one senior education officer, five women education officers, three assistant domestic science instructors, *et cetera*. This is inadequate. Is this a domestic science school or is it a mockery? Or is this education? I do not think it is education. It is a mockery.

At page 104, we are voting a total of £40,390 for what the Government calls Citizenship and Leadership Training Centre. What is this Citizenship and Leadership Training Centre? Do hon. Members have to go to leadership schools in order to become leaders?

**Some hon. Members : Yes.**

**Dr Okeke :** So hon. Members have to be trained in citizenship course? Citizenship or leadership training will have to start in the elementary schools, going through secondary schools and finally through a university course. If one has not got leadership qualities in all these years, then one cannot go to a particular place to get leadership qualities after one has wasted one's school years.

**Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East) :** On a point of information, the leadership training centre which is sited at Plateau is playing a very vital role in the economy of this country. Apart from that, that place serves as a tourist resort. There are also so many countries in Africa which are sending their people to this leadership course. I am sure that there are some hon. Members in this House who have been to this leadership course.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku :** On a point of order.—

**Dr Okeke :** I do not yield.

**The Chairman :** May I know if the Minister wants to raise a point of order?

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku :** On a point of order, if only the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) had time to visit the Centre for citizenship and leadership training, he could have yielded at once without dispute, because leadership is one of the things learnt there. The citizenship and leadership training at Kura Falls is one of our arms of educational system. It is not only patronised by Nigerians, but also patronised by people from Ghana and many West African countries. So, it is a very important institution. I would like to seize this chance to ask hon. Members, if they can, to do their best to visit Kura Falls.

**Some hon. Members :** What about transport?

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku :** It is not far from here. The President of our Federal Republic had the chance of opening the place. It has an open gate, so many people attended the opening ceremony. I would like hon. Members to go there and see what is being done there. If it were the time we had the Man O'War Bay in the Cameroons, hon. Members could have complained of transport. Now it

[ONYIBA AJA NWACHUKU]

is just a question of a day's journey to Kura Falls. Hon. Members should go there and on their return they will be satisfied that the money voted is negligible compared to the good job which is being done there.

**Dr Okeke :** I thank the Minister for this information. How many leaders have been trained in this Centre? What kind of people are going to be trained to lead Onitsha people? How do you know those who are qualified to be leaders of Umuoji people? We have leaders over there and they did not go to citizenship training. We have 312 Members in this House. I challenge any hon. Member to tell me that more than sixty hon. Members have been trained in this place before they qualified as leaders? The Citizenship Centre is where retired British expatriates go on vacation to teach people leadership. Is that what we are paying for? Is it the retired expatriates that will come to teach us leadership? Is it the retired expatriates that will come to teach me how to lead my people.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku :** On a point of order, I am sorry that my hon. Friend is talking about what he knows very little. The man at the head of this institution is a Nigerian and the expatriate who is in charge of the course is an official there and cannot dictate in one way or the other how the course will be run. I have asked the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) to go there and see for himself, so that he will be able to speak intelligently about what is going on at Kura Falls.

**Dr Okeke :** Look at the amount of subvention we are giving to the Regions for technical education—£17,500 compared with £40,000 for citizenship training and £40,390 for Queen's College. Now what are we doing? Do we think that citizenship and leadership training is more important than technical education? When we look for technicians, we cannot find them. We hardly find people qualified to do plumbing, electrical and fitting work, rather we import expatriates to do the work. Now, we have not trained our people to do all these skilled jobs and yet we are spending much money on citizenship and leadership training.

We are placing wrong priorities on our expenditure in many areas. We must do first things first. Surely, it is good to pay for

fundamental things, but we have to pay for the necessary things first. Leisure is good, but when a person has not got money to eat with, why go in for leisure? We must invest in education where it matters.

I beg to support.

**Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) :** I would like to register my congratulations to the Minister of Education and the Deputy Minister of Education whom we call the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education. I am congratulating them for instituting or creating—

**Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North) :** On a point of order, the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) has just finished speaking and the Chairman has called upon another Member from that Bench to speak. This is very appalling.

**Mr Ememe :** I am made to believe that the Ministry of Education is doing a very nice job by the building of Advanced Teachers' Training Colleges. The one that is being built in the Eastern Region is a shining example of what the Ministry has been doing. I expect this new project to be extended to other places in the country—the North, the Mid-West and the West.

I wish to raise a few points on this Ministry. One important point is on the Bureau of External Aid. I have noticed that the Federal Ministry of Education has decentralised its functions to Regional Governments. In fact, this decentralisation is more or less bordering on the abdication of the powers of the Federal Government. This is very odd, especially when we consider that foreign scholarships are definitely the exclusive right of the Federal Government. When the Federal Ministry of Education leaves the selection of students who have applied for foreign scholarships to the Regional Governments, the Ministry is really abdicating its powers.

Many cases have come to our notice where Regional Governments have been an obstruction instead of aiding the improvement of these foreign scholarships. I have an instance to cite. In 1962, scholarships were given to this country—

**Several hon. Members :** From what country? From Moscow?

**Mr Ememe :** From several countries.

It was this regionalisation of External Aids that made it impossible to raise the number of students who accept these external aids.

Last year, I noticed again that the same thing was repeated. Many students lost the scholarships that could have been given to them because of the inefficiency of the Ministry of Education. Instead of the Federal Ministry of Education selecting the students, it allowed the Regional Governments to do the selection, and the worst of it is that the Federal Ministry of Education does not ask the Regions to make their selections in time.

I give as an example the forty-five scholarships that were given in 1963 by the Soviet Union to this country. Many other countries gave similar scholarships and many of these scholarships were not accepted.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments** (Mr Akubakar Isandu) : The constant mentioning of Moscow by the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) is very suspicious. We do not know what he is after and we want him to tell us how much he gets from Moscow. There is a Russian Ambassador in this country and I do not see why Mr Ememe should himself be doing everything in the interest of the Soviet Union.

**Mr Ememe :** The hon. Gentleman who has just spoken is joking. I have to remind him that this is a very serious matter and it should not be joked with.

When foreign countries give us aids in the form of scholarships, these aids should be taken by the Federal Government. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments will remember that last year maybe he was not paying attention as an hon. Member when some scholarships were given to this Federal Government and over 7,000 students applied for them, the Federal Government was unable to select forty-five students to take these scholarships.

This is a very serious matter that should not be toyed with. Should the Federal Ministry of Education not actually do the job of selecting by itself? Why should it delegate

its powers to the Regional Governments and when they have done the selection as half-heartedly as possible they will come back to tell the House that the students cannot take the scholarships? What does that mean? If the students who apply for scholarships cannot take the scholarships, it means the Ministry of Education is telling the world that Nigerian students have not got enough brains to know what they want and what they do not want.

**Mr N. D. Ukah** (Owerri North East) : On a point of order, the hon. Member speaking is withholding certain facts he should give to this House. The facts are that many of these students who go to Russia on Russian scholarships are being victimised when they fail to be converted to the Russian ideology and ways of life. There are students who have even written to be taken back to Nigeria.

**Several hon. Members :** No! No! We have not heard of that.

**Mr Ememe :** What the hon. Gentleman is saying has no relation to what I am saying. If students apply for scholarships, they should be examined in the light of their qualifications and given the scholarships. If the scholarships are to be given in August, the necessary documents should have been ready before July or before August so that the qualified students could accept the scholarships. What happens at the moment is that when the students are supposed to leave this country in August, they are being called for interview in November! What kind of efficiency is this? Students who are supposed to go to the University in September are being called for interview in November! This is a clear demonstration of inefficiency.

In fact, the Ministry of Education is contributing very bitterly to destroy the Nigerian-Soviet friendly relations. I have to urge on behalf of the nationals of this country that this Ministry should do all it can, not to create this bad impression that Nigeria does not want aid from other countries. There is no need for creating such bad impressions. If Nigerians do not want to go to the Soviet Union, why should many of them go through the backdoor?

**Several hon. Members :** Voice of Moscow!



**The Minister of Education** (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku): It is absolutely untrue for the hon. Gentleman to say that we destroy the good relationship between Nigeria and the Soviet Union. We are doing all we can to see that the relationship is permanent and maintained.

As for foreign aids and foreign scholarships, any foreign assistance first of all goes to the Ministry of External Affairs, and when it is vetted and passed then the aid will come to my Ministry. My Ministry will then refer this aid to the Regional Ministries of Education who then invite applications which they send back to my Ministry, and when they do this, we pass the applications of the people who are qualified. We have no reason whatsoever to doubt the integrity of the Regional Ministries of Education.

With regard to the Soviet Union scholarships, the fact is more on students not being prepared to accept the scholarships than on not finding people who are qualified. At one time when we were unable to get these people, the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) brought some names and some of these people were called—

**The Chairman**: Order. I thought the Minister of Education was raising a point of order. If the Minister continues at any greater length, it is difficult to see what he will do when he is called upon to reply.

**Mr Ememe**: The point I am raising is not only in respect of the Soviet Union. I am making a general statement about foreign aid and this general statement applies to other countries. I have only given—

**The Minister of External Affairs** (Dr Jaja Wachuku): On a point of order, foreign aid is not within the special competence of the Ministry of Education. Therefore, the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) cannot raise it.

**The Chairman**: I thought the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) was merely going to refer to foreign aid as it relates to Education very summarily; but if he is going to debate it at length, then we may not have enough to say when we come to External Affairs.

**Mr Ememe**: I thank you for the correction, Mr Chairman. I am talking about foreign scholarships. What I have said and what the Ministry should really bear in mind is that it is not wise to decentralise the function. It is not wise to send to the Regions to tell the Ministry who should take these scholarships. It is very inefficient to do so because it takes months to do that. I would emphasise that the Ministry should definitely take this function by itself because it can do that.

I wish to talk about scholarship awards. I have noticed also that many of the Federal scholarships have been awarded on merit and we do not really know what these merits are. We believe that this is the case. But the result, of course, is that many constituencies throughout the Federation have not got the chance to enjoy these scholarships because of these so-called merits.

I wish to give the Minister of Education a type of formula which has been adopted in the Regions to the satisfaction of everybody. I would like the Minister to adopt the formula of 30 : 70 ratio, that is 30 *per cent* on merit and 70 *per cent* on constituency basis. We should not neglect the fact that we represent our constituencies in this House and when we return to our constituencies we tell our people that we have done this and that for them. Why should we talk about merits? Merits may only come from one constituency and the remaining 311 constituencies will get nothing from the Federal Government. When we go back to our constituencies what are we going to tell our people? Are we going to tell them that the Federal Government deals with merits? What kind of merit is that? We would like to have that merit formula changed so that 30 *per cent* of the scholarships would be on merit, as the Minister has said, and 70 *per cent* on constituency basis.

Another point that I want to raise is that the Ministry has been very, very unfair to many people who want to proceed overseas for technical scholarships: The Ministry has insisted very often that these people should have very high qualifications. In fact, some of the requirements are so high that it would not even be necessary for them to go overseas for further studies if they already had them. I think that this—

**Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyarma** (Hadejia North) : On a point of order, in order to allow progress on this Head, I would like to move that the Question be now put.

**Several hon. Members** : No ! No !

**The Chairman** : Order. The Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyarma*) is endeavouring to move that the Question be put. I think it is only fair that at least we should afford the Minister an opportunity to reply.

**Mr Ememe** : What I was saying is about this—

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : On a point of order, the only person who wants to speak on Education on this side of the House is the Member for Oyo South (*Mr Kolade*) and I would like the Chairman to afford him the opportunity before the Minister speaks.

**The Chairman** : Order. I think it is going to create a very unfortunate precedent if the Chair is going to be controlled in this manner. I think it is a matter for the discretion of the Chair how to distribute speaking opportunities.

**Mr Ememe** : The point I was trying to make is that the qualification which is required by the Ministry of Education for technical scholarships is very high. If we are really interested in promoting technical scholarships, we should lower the qualification for those people who want to proceed for technical education. I do not see any reason why anybody who wants to study plumbing, for example, should have G.C.E. Advanced Level. There is no reason for that. It is not necessary, and yet the Minister is insisting on this type of thing, making it almost impossible for people to proceed for further studies.

I have to remind the Minister that two years ago I was favoured by this Federal Government to send to Czechoslovakia some students to study technology. Many of these students have not got their G.C.E. or Senior Cambridge, as it was called. Many of them were just ordinary boys picked up from secondary schools. They are all doing well in Czechoslovakia. There is no reason why other students here should not be given such opportunities.

I understand that these things are possible from the Government point of view. The Government should ask for these aids.

The last point I want to make is on the influence of foreigners on our universities. I have noticed that the technical aids or any other aids we have been receiving from overseas have not been fully analysed by the Federal Government, or to be precise, the Ministry of Education. I notice that many countries, especially those in the Western bloc, have been giving some kind of grants to our universities—grants that go specifically to certain projects in the universities. This is a very serious way of trying to infiltrate into the rank and file of our universities. In fact, the Americans have been doing this to a very great extreme.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe** (Orlu West) : It is again unfortunate that this type of image is being created here. The universal law is that he who pays the piper has the right to dictate the tune and there is never any history of international loan or grant without a string attached.

The Americans have their money and they have the right to determine how the money will be spent. Alternatively, we have to refuse their money and their offer. The point made by my hon. Friend is, therefore, irrelevant and unnecessary.

**Mr Ememe** : I am very surprised at what the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) has said. It is a pity that his own personal interest is so involved that he does not mind whether the interest of the nation is catered for or not.

**The Chairman** : Order ! May I say that I hope that the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) has not made that statement in any serious mood because if he did, he is completely in breach of our Standing Orders and I hope he will withdraw it.

**Mr Ememe** : I want to state that there is a great risk in allowing foreigners to make specific grants to our universities. This is important in that if they contribute financially to any specific project they are going to tell us how to run such a project, and it is not fair to the sovereignty of this nation for a foreign power to come here and tell us how we must run certain projects in our country because they have the money. That is unfair.

[MR EMEME]

What I think should be done is that if money is given to the Federal Government, it should be given to the Federal Government as a grant and the Federal Government has the right to use the money in any way it wants and not to allow a foreign power to say, "I give you this money for that specific project and if you do not use it the way I want it to be used, then the money should not be given". That is what the American Government has been doing so far and I protest very seriously against such a move. It is not in the interest of this nation and it should not be allowed by the Ministry of Education and by the Federal Government. I would like to say that I expect the Minister himself to make statements on these matters.

**The Chairman :** Order, order. May I appeal to hon. Members. It does appear that emphasis must be made in making points, but repetitions make the speeches dull and it takes up the time that others should have had. We have about seven Heads of Estimates to go through to-day and I am sure there are many other Members who have certain things to say on the various Heads. So, may I appeal to Members generally when they are making their contributions, to make it a little brief.

We appreciate that each Member has thirty minutes, but if everybody is going to speak for thirty minutes, then many others will go home frustrated.

**Mr D. D. Dimka (Angas) :** I have only one point to make, that is, that when we talk of education, we must remember those who educate our children and these are the teachers. I think it is true that many Members of this House were teachers and some are still teachers.

One thing I should like the Minister of Education to think about also when he negotiates between himself and his colleagues in the Regions is about the neglect of the teachers. The teachers have been greatly neglected by all the Governments. The Ministers of Education do not even remember that teachers work unceasingly. I think it is true that the Ministers of Education do not remember also that teachers work after school hours. Apart from the school work they do in the classrooms, they have afternoon activities to supervise. In the night also, they have to read books and

they have to prepare notes for the next days' work.

If we compare the work done by teachers with those done by people in other professions, especially people who work in offices, we will find that people working in offices close by two o'clock, and they are free till the next day. Many people in other professions like the clerks do not even remember anything about their office after closing at two o'clock till the next day. If we really want to do something for the teachers and when we want to talk about education, we must remember the work done by teachers. More especially we must remember that they are the people who have taught the people who work in offices.

Coming to promotion, teachers do not enjoy promotional facilities as is the case with people in other professions.

**The Minister of Education (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku) :** I am taking note of the Member's points.

**Mr Dimka :** I am happy the Minister of Education is taking note of these points because teachers do not have promotions. Teachers have to undergo training courses before they are promoted, otherwise they have to keep on marking time.

The salaries of the teachers should also be reviewed. The scales of salaries for people who have been trained as clerks, pharmacists or nurses are much higher than the scales for those who have been trained as Grade II or even Grade I teachers. It is really a sad thing that people who have done quite a lot for the nation as a whole should be neglected so grossly.

Because of the neglect of the teachers, students from secondary schools dislike taking up teaching as a profession. They do not want to do it because teachers are neglected. Another reason is because teachers have been looked upon as people who are less fortunate. Boys and girls from secondary schools regard the teaching profession as a profession for people who are less fortunate; in fact, they regard teaching as work for the undesirables, and we would be making a great mistake if we should neglect the teachers and then continue to say that we want to help people in other professions at the expense of the teachers.

There is another thing which I think I must point out. There is also the evil of corruption in schools. If one wants to send one's child to school, more especially in big towns where the number of school children is very high, one has to give some money to the Headmaster or the Principal before one's child is accepted, and this money is not a part of the school fees.

**Mr D. C. Ahamefula** (Okigwi South West) : On a point of order, I do not know if the Member for Angas (*Mr Dimka*) is really a teacher. We are told that teachers' rewards are in Heaven, but he wants us to give them another reward here on earth.

**The Chairman** : Order ! Their rewards may be in Heaven, but there is no harm if they start receiving them here on earth.

**Mr Dimka** : It is quite true, but I do not know whether the Member for Okigwi South West (*Mr Ahamefula*) is a teacher. The practice is very bad because in many cases children cannot be promoted because their parents cannot afford to give some money to the Headmasters or to the Principals.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** : Parents do not need to influence Headmasters before their children are admitted into schools. It is only in the civil Service that people carry *tototo* about.

**Mr Dimka** : The hon. Gentleman is denying because he himself is a teacher and I think he is a principal of a college. But what I am saying is true. So these principals and headmasters must think of the poor parents who have got to pay taxes and school fees. They should let their children gain admission into schools without having to pay money.

I beg to support.

**The Chairman** : The Minister of Education.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : In view of the fact that the Ministry of Education is an important Ministry and that there are so many educationists who wish to talk on this Head, I move that after the Minister's speech, we shall continue the debate on this Head in the afternoon.

**The Chairman** : Order ! It does not take a Motion to do that. In any event we are in Committee and under Standing Orders nothing prevents the Minister from speaking again if he has spoken once.

**The Minister of Education** (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku) : Some of the points made by earlier speakers are being repeated by those who have just spoken and I think if I answer one point which is made by more than one person they should have to share it. They should share the answer.

The Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) mentioned paper leakages, impersonation, special schools, technical education, school syllabuses, expatriate graduates, intensive research work, foreign names ; and I think many Members also spoke on these points.

In the case of examination paper leakages, the Regional Ministries of Education as well as the Federal Ministry of Education are doing something to see that this is stopped and those who have been involved in this offence have been adequately punished. If there is any further case of such leakages we shall continue to make examples of the people responsible because it is only by doing that, that we can find a deterrent to this ugly situation.

Principals and teachers should discourage their students from doing cram work or giving some of these papers to them. There has never been an occasion when it is proved that the leakage of question papers comes from any Ministry. It has always come either from the students themselves or from principals and I think that the blame is more to be attached to the students and their principals than to the different Ministries.

On the question of impersonation, this has been arrested. From entrance to secondary schools which is conducted by the West African Examinations Council on common entrance basis, the Ministries have devised a means of checking impersonation by seeing that every applicant tenders his passport picture and when they sit for the examination, these pictures are used to identify them. So it is not possible that any of them can impersonate, and if it is suggested that hand-writing should be sent in advance, you will agree with me that in the examination room, one is faced by such things as nervousness and again by trying to answer the questions before the time is up and that in a way might change one's hand-writing.

**Mr Ogbalu** : I should like the Minister to reply to this. Where two boys have connived to trick the examiners, if after presenting their

[MR OGBALU]

passport photographs they sit in the same examination with the intention that one should pass and the other one should fail whilst one writes the name of the other one when the actual name is not his so that in the end the other one will pass, how can the Examination Council prevent this ?

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku :** I do not know where what the hon. Gentleman referred to happens ; whether it is in the examination of students by their teachers or whether in the entrance examination or School Certificate examination.

**Mr Ogbalu :** Common entrance examination.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku :** That is not true. When he talks of special schools for aristocrats and wealthy people, I wish to say that to the best of my knowledge, we do not run any such schools. But if you have a collection of people who want to run a multi-racial school like the Saint Saviour's which you have at Ikoyi, or the Corona, they are free to do so and only those who feel that they can afford to pay for such an expensive course can send their children there. If people run schools without assistance from Government, we have no reason whatsoever to stop them. So it is left with you to send your children to such schools. But if they are grant-aided then the school will be open to all and sundry.

There is no discrimination in our schools. He said that some of us send our children there. If I have the means of sending my children to a school of that nature, there is no reason why I should not do so. Example is better than precepts. We have our children in what you might call ordinary schools in Lagos. But they are not ordinary in the sense that they accomplish such things as can be accomplished in some of the schools you think are meant for the children of aristocrats. We have our children in Baptist Academy in Lagos, Methodist Boys' High School and Methodist Girls' High School, King's College ; and what is more, before you have any of these children in one of the outstanding colleges, the children must pass an entrance examination to such schools. You do not have to send a dunce to any secondary school because you are in charge or that you can influence the Principal. None of my Principals, to the best of my knowledge,

can be influenced. I have absolute confidence in them and unless it is proved otherwise, I still maintain that confidence.

As for technical education, the Federal Government is doing all it possibly can to help the Regional Governments in the running of their technical schools and some philanthropic bodies outside this country have also contributed very substantially to the building of technical schools in this country. When he talked of taking over technical education or taking over all the educational systems in the country by the Federal Government, there is one thing we must know, and that is the question that one is man saying or a group of people are saying this will not solve the problem. There must be a revision of the Constitution, and we cannot do it piece-meal. If other subjects are being revised, then education might be one of them.

**Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East) :** On a point of order, I do not think it is necessary to revise the Constitution before Government gives grants. We want the Minister to give grants in order to ease for the Regions the burden of primary school expenses. Give them grants to cover these expenses.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku :** I am not saying that there should be a review of the Constitution before grants are paid. We do pay grants—we pay grants for sixth forms, we pay grants for technical education and we pay grants to the Regional Universities.

It must be remembered, however, that we pay these grants as help. Our grants do not stop the Regional Governments from voting money for their education, knowing too well that education is not a Federal subject.

Again, we have what we call distributable pools. When the Regions have got their grants and have gone back to their respective Regions, they would not expect us any longer to use the little money we ourselves have got at the Federal territory to run their schools. They have to use the grants we have given to them and supplement this with the money they have voted for education in their various Regions.

If the Regions wanted the Federal Government to run their education for them, then they could have allowed all the revenue accruing

House of Representatives Debates

1741

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

6 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1742

into the country to be kept and disbursed by the Federal Government. You cannot have your own share and then keep that, whilst you rob me of the little I have got. That would be very unfair.

As for the changing of the name of King's College as suggested, I think there is a Motion to that effect coming up tomorrow. I know that my hon. Friend was mentioning this now to anticipate an answer from me. I shall do my best not to say anything about this until tomorrow.

As for expatriate graduates alleged to have been recruited in place of Nigerians, I submit that this is not true. At one time, we were faced with acute shortage of teachers. I remember that I had to leave this country in search of teachers elsewhere. I was told that the shortage of teachers was a global problem which no one country had been able to solve.

Kennedy's Peace Corps, to a great extent, has helped us. V.S.O. (Voluntary Service Overseas) has done its best in helping us too, and we have summer vacation teachers from the United Kingdom who also help us. That is why we have been able to solve, to a fairly great extent, our shortage of teachers problem.

There is one point I would like to stress in this connection. If we have to recruit all the graduate teachers in the country, the problem will not be solved because there is a great demand for them everywhere, while, on the other hand, they have no desire whatsoever and are very hesitant in taking up teaching appointments.

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central) : I want to ask why the Minister is now saying that graduate teachers are very hesitant to take up teaching as a profession. Can the Minister tell us what he is doing or what he intends to do to make teaching attractive for graduates.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku** : The conditions of service of teachers here are as attractive as they should be. Where we have complaints is on the lower level.

But in the case of graduates, sometimes the point of entry is the same, and where there is a difference in the point of entry, this is offset by the number of weeks in a year they have to enjoy during school holidays.

**Mr Ogbalu** : On a point of Order, teachers in this country are never given any leave. They work like jackasses throughout their working lives. They have no period of rest, very poor conditions of service and no promotion. Unless teachers pass their examinations, no amount of work they put in—even if they work ceaselessly from day to night—they will not have any promotion. They do not even have inducements. If a headmaster is very efficient, he is not paid any compensation. He remains where he is *ad infinitum*.

**The Chairman** : That was a point of information.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku** : It is not true to say that there is no promotion and no prospect for teachers. We do promote our teachers on the Federal level.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe** (Orlu West) : On a point of Order, I know that the Minister of Education should not be constantly interrupted in his speech, in view of the fact that he is very popular with the Members of this House, but I only wish to make one remark about his Ministry.

The problem with his Ministry is that there is this unholy marriage between voluntary agencies and the Ministry, so that the teachers in voluntary agencies do not know whether they belong to the Ministry or to voluntary agencies like the Roman Catholic Mission, Anglican Mission, *et cetera*.

I therefore, suggest, that all schools should be nationalised forthwith. If we grappled with this problem for the next twenty years, we would not find any other solution than this one.

**The Chairman** : The Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) is raising a Motion, which is certainly out of order, and probably amounts to an abuse of parliamentary procedure.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : The Member for Orlu West is asking that all schools should be nationalised because he can no longer afford to foot the bill for his school.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji** (Egba East) : On a point of order, one wonders why there is so much disorder in the Government Bench every time. I only hope the Speaker will do something about it. This state of affairs is disgraceful.

**The Chairman :** I am not aware of any disorder, but I am aware of over-boiling enthusiasm among Members of the Government Bench.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku :** Replying to the point raised by my hon. Friend the Member for Orlu West, I would say that I do not know of any unholy marriage between the voluntary agencies and the Government. If there is any marriage at all, it is a holy marriage.

Some of the expected graduate teachers who come here are being sent on secondment and some as a result of technical assistance we receive from the donor country, in which case, the donor country foots the bill of any graduate teacher coming here. I would ask hon. Members not to try to equate the salaries of indigenous teachers with the salaries of teachers from abroad, who are here on secondment and whose Governments would pay the normal salary they could have earned here plus something as inducement because they have left their home countries.

The Member for Awka North (*Mr F. C. Ogbalu*) also mentioned intensive research work in the universities. Research is part of the functions of lecturers and professors, who, as a matter of fact, have a great interest in doing research.

Research is in consonance with the policy of every university. The university has got to have research students. We do not have to tell a university about this; every university is vigorously pursuing research. If Members read some of the pamphlets printed in our universities, they will see titles of a great deal of books that have been written as a result of research by professors and lecturers.

Again, lest I forget, I have to say that the role played by our expatriate graduate teachers and many of our principals should earn them nothing but praise in this House.

Mention has been made of the Principal of King's College. The Principal of King's College, at one time, was brought to my Ministry to work. There was tremendous dissatisfaction amongst parents and students at King's College to the extent that I had to send him back to King's College. People clamour to have him back in King's College because of the good work he is doing there.

I think Mr Davies, the Principal of King's College, should earn praise on the Floor of this House for the very good work he has done at King's College. He is a very efficient Principal, and I have no cause to doubt what he is doing in the interest of students at King's College.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): On a point of order, I cannot resist seizing this opportunity to duff my hat to the Minister of Education for bringing these facts about the Principal of King's College to the notice of some disgruntled Members on the Government Bench. I can assure the Minister that he will continue to have the support, co-operation and loyalty of people that matter in Nigeria.

The Minister should not, however, pay any heed to what has been said by Members of the Government Bench by way of criticisms. I agree entirely with him that Mr Davies is a competent man, a lover of our nation. If Members in the Government Bench will continue to say anything bad about this man on the Floor of this House—

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): I am sorry to say that the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) is trying to misdirect this House. Nobody from the Government Bench or any side of this House has spoken against the Principal of King's College. We all know he is a very good man. We all believe that if we have more expatriates like Mr Davies, we will welcome them in this country. What the hon. Member has said about us is not true; he has told a lie to this hon. House.

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3.00 p.m.*

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku :** The Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi*), mentioned the necessity for the establishment of a Federal Advisory Board on Education. Already, we have Advisory Boards on Education in the Regions and in the Federal Territory. In addition, we have also a Joint Consultative Committee on Education and a Co-ordinating Committee on External Aid for Education. These bodies perform the functions of the advisory body which the Member for Afenmai East envisages.

Mr Obi also mentioned the question of scholarships on constituency basis. I wish to say that this will be unacceptable to the

*House of Representatives Debates*

1745

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

6 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1746

Federal Government. The Regional Governments have what they call 30-70. In other words, some of the Regional Governments have to commute money for scholarships to those areas where they do not have a good number of students to compete for higher education scholarships. The Federal Government has only done it for the Northern Region in accordance with the Government's Sessional Paper on Educational Development published in 1961. We have to commute money for scholarships in order to enable our brothers and sisters in the Northern Region in a few years time to be able to compete for Federal scholarships at the University level.

There was a moot point also mentioned by the Member for Afenmai East, namely, the question of inferiority among University students. We are told that like the father is like the son. If Mr Obi has taken the trouble to study the 1963-64 calendar of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, he could not have made the remarks that he made this morning.

The University of Nigeria, Nsukka has four Faculties. The Faculty of Arts, made up of four departments, the Faculty of Science, made up of ten departments, the Faculty of Social Science, made up of twelve departments and the Faculty of Technology, made up of thirteen departments. Each of these departments has more than two-thirds of its staff with doctorate degrees. That was why I said like the father is like the son. We do not expect a Faculty with so many eminently qualified Professors and Lecturers to produce second class students.

The efficiency of our Universities can only be determined by the National Universities Commission which has the business of disbursing money to the Universities and they cannot disburse money to any University that does not perform its functions properly.

We also have the National Academic Board whose duty, among other things, is to see that the standard of our Universities is the same.

The question of examination papers was again raised. I have said that there is no room for impersonation because when students are required to send their applications for entrance to any secondary school, the first thing done is to see that the application forms go to the

pupils in the Primary Schools through their Headmistresses and Headmasters and, in the case of the West African School certificate, the West African Examinations Council send the forms through the Principals of secondary schools.

When these application forms are received the Principals make sure that every student who wants to take part in this examination produces his or her passport photograph and this passport photograph is affixed to the application form and handed to the Headmaster or Headmistress. The Headmaster or Headmistress sends the forms to the West African Examinations Council. The student who wants to do the examination, once he or she hands in the application form sees it no more. It goes to the West African Examinations Council and on the examination day before the student takes his number and seat, the Invigilators make sure that they are satisfied with the question of the photograph being actually the photograph of the student who wants to take the examination. I think this is sufficient deterrent to the people who impersonate.

The Member for Ekiti South East (*Mr Ajayi*) raised the question of technical education. I think I have earlier on stated that the Federal Government has given and will continue to give substantial assistance to Regional Governments for the operation of their technical schools.

The same hon. Gentleman also mentioned the point that the Inter-Regional Secondary School to be built at Warri was meant for the Western Region and now that Warri is in the Mid-West Region, it will be a wise thing to see that one is sited in the Western Region. The Federal Government is committed to establishing such schools in each of the Regions and the Western Region must have its share.

Speaking about the Advanced Teachers' Colleges, I would like to say that it is not only in Lagos that we have the Advanced Teachers' Colleges. When these colleges were to be built, the Executive Board of UNESCO agreed to have one in each country. But as one Dr Mohammed said, Nigeria is Africa in Africa, that entitled us to four through the generosity of Dr Adeshishiah. When we got the four schools, they were sited each in one Region.



[ONYINBA AJA NWACHUKU]

That for Lagos is in Lagos, the one for Western Region is in Ondo, the one for Northern Region is in Zaria, and the one for Eastern Region is in Owerri.

We have fairly distributed these Advanced Teachers' Colleges in order to enable people from the regions to benefit from these institutions which are sited within their regions. It is not my place to dictate conditions of entry to the Regions. It is solely the responsibility of the Regional Ministries of Education. We are only concerned with that of Lagos and there is no complaint whatsoever that those qualified when chances were available have been refused admission.

He was wondering whether the assistance we gave to the Northern Region for the running of their primary education was also given to the Western Region. He said he did not know whether such assistance was also given to the Eastern Region. I have to say that the Sessional Paper which I mentioned a few minutes ago does not stipulate that Western Region or Eastern Region should be given this type of assistance. We are doing this in order to bring the Northern Region near the target they have aimed at. The answer is that we do not give such assistance to the Eastern Region or the Western Region.

I think there is no need saying anything about education being a Federal subject. A Motion to this effect was brought to the Floor of this House and was adequately treated. We arrived at a decision that the Federal Government cannot take over education as such unless the constitution is reviewed.

The Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr P. U. Okeke*) mentioned the question of the curriculum. I think this matter is being looked into. He continued to emphasise that something was wrong. I had always regarded teachers as mechanics to our educational progress. If one's vehicle is in disorder all one has to do is to approach a mechanic who, if he is worthy of that name, will get the machine on the road. If anything is wrong I think our educationists in this country, like mechanics, will help us to know what actually is wrong. I hear a Member saying that a hungry mechanic is likely to ruin a vehicle. There is nothing like a hungry mechanic because when a mechanic is doing his appren-

ticeship he is not paid anything. When he has completed his course, he stays on his own. So the Member is making a wrong analogy. There is no mechanic who could be hungry.

As usual, the question of graduates at King's College and Queen's College was raised. At the King's College the people some of whose names we see there are not actually teaching in the College. They are Education Officers. Some of them are Advisers and the Regional Governments have always benefited from these members of the staff of my Ministry. The demand for them to go to the Regions to advise them and to help them supervise their schools is very great. So when we talk of graduates being at King's College, and that some of them should be removed to Voluntary Agency schools it is because those who say so do not actually know what functions these teachers perform.

And there is no Voluntary Agency school which has come to my Ministry to say that it wants graduate teachers. If there are we shall always do our best to see that we give some to them. We have been helping all the Regional Ministries of Education by way of sending some members of the Peace Corps to them, Voluntary Service Overseas men and Summer Vacation Teachers. We can always meet their demands. We have not seen any. Even at King's College, we have not filled all the posts which we ought to fill.

The subvention given to the Regions for technical education is a subvention in a way of help. We do not say that we can meet all their needs. We have only to help them by way of subvention and when we do that it is their duty to see that they make adequate provision for their technical education.

The Member for Aba South (*Mr O. C. Ememe*) mentioned the question of delegation of powers to the Regional Governments. He said this means abdication of powers. Sometimes he does not want us to co-operate with the Regional Governments by suggesting that all foreign scholarships should be treated by the Federal Government. I am sure he will be one of the people who will complain if we have to adopt that policy of not minding the Regions. In anything we do, we have always tried, as father of the Federation, to carry the Regions with us. If we have any assistance outside it will only be wise for us to get in

touch with the Regional Governments, put everything bare to them and ask them to send their people who are qualified. They are very near to the people and, I think, they should know better than we do those who should benefit from such awards.

He was talking of double-dealing, inefficiency and merits which he did not understand. I would only ask my hon. Friend and Member for Aba South that on the Floor of this House we are regarded as hon. Members. He should therefore always try to choose his words because some of the words he uses do not in any way reflect creditably on him. We do not know anything like influence of foreigners on our universities. He associated this with grants for certain projects in our universities. Grants are made with very little strings attached. Such strings might be in a way of sending teachers from the donor countries. They send people who will run the course for a time and then the Federal Government or the Government of the area concerned will take over after three, four or five years.

When we are given grants, of course, some of them go to the universities direct. The Vice-Chancellors or Principals, as they were formerly called, always went on their own to look for assistance abroad. They are normally given grants from some philanthropic bodies of some friendly countries. But I know very well that none of these Vice-Chancellors or Principals has ever accepted any gift which contains such strings as we did not like to be attached to such gifts.

The Member for Angas (*Mr D. D. Dimka*) was saying that teachers are neglected. Speaking for myself or the Federal Government, we do not neglect teachers. Education is a decentralised subject and if the Regions neglect them, I do not know. I do not think that any Ministry of Education in the Regions neglect teachers.

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South) : It is a fact that some of the Regions neglect their teachers because in the Eastern Region I have not received my salary since January to this date. A teacher is not expected to teach well if he is not paid regularly.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : I humbly wish to say that the Member for Ikot Ekpene South (*Mr Afanideh*) has told a lie to this

House. There is no teacher in the Eastern Region who has not received his salary since January to this period.

**Mr Afanideh** : I throw a challenge to the Member for Owerri East. Let him go to my Manager, and if the Manager says he has paid me my January salary, then I shall bear any penalty.

**Chief R. A. Orok** : On a point of information I want to say that my son, Mr Francis Raymond Orok is one of the teachers, and he has got his salary.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku** : The allegation that teachers in the East have not been paid their salaries for three months is not true, to the best of my knowledge. It might be that—

*Mr J. O. Ede rose—*

**The Chairman** : Will Mr Ede please resume his seat.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku** : The position might be that the Member for Ikot Ekpene South (*Mr Afanideh*) was busy filling his coupon for sweepstakes when the salaries of teachers were being paid.

**Mr Afanideh** : I vehemently protest against the statement of the Minister.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku** : The Member might then have been busy reading for his G.C.E. and as a result, had no time to receive his salary. All I know is that teachers' salaries have—

**Mr D. D. Dimka** (Angas) : I think I must point out that what the Member for Ikot Ekpene South (*Mr Afanideh*) is saying is quite true. I know all teachers in voluntary agencies schools in the East have not been paid.

**The Chairman** : Members must realise that the educational policy of the regional governments are not subject to discussion here.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku** : Thank you, Mr Chairman. I think all the teachers are well treated. None of them is neglected. There is no truth whatsoever in the saying that the teachers do not receive salaries. Some of the

[ONYIBA AJA NWACHUKU]

teachers spend the whole of the time attending local council meetings instead of going to receive their salaries.

**Mr J. O. Ede** (Idoma North) : The Minister has already said that he knows nothing about the regional Ministries of education. I think that is correct, and he can only base his observations on matters concerning education in the Federal ministry.

I can give several examples of non-payment of salaries in my own Constituency. I have got so many teachers who have been starving.

**The Chairman** : It is out of order to discuss regional subjects here. If the Minister is not going to abandon this, I shall put the question.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku** : I was saying that when we talk of falling standards, some of the teachers are responsible for this. It is not because of the syllabus. Sometimes, teachers attend classes only four times in the month, and they spend the rest of the time attending one local council meeting or the other. They have no interest in the welfare of their students. I would like to see teachers who would wait behind after normal school hours to help backward students.

The Member also mentioned the question of corruption in the enrolment and registration of students. This is an allegation which he cannot substantiate. There is no teacher worthy of the profession who will receive money from school children before such children are promoted. He also said he was once a teacher, but I do not know whether he was speaking from experience. If he is speaking from experience I shall see to it that the Member's name is removed from the register of teachers.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*£2,270,360 for Head 36.—Education—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

#### HEAD 37.—ANTIQUITIES

*Question proposed, That £87,000 for Head 37—Antiquities—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : I rise to congratulate the Minister of Education for appointing a Nigerian as a Director of the

Antiquities. I think the Minister should be congratulated for this.

Another point for which I would like to congratulate the Minister is the establishment of a bilingual centre in Jos. The centre is for museum technicians. This is a welcome thing. Many Members of this House may not know the importance of this centre which is of an international standard and outlook. It would not only train people of Nigeria, but it would also train students from all over Africa, and I think this is a credit to Nigeria, and to the Federal Government.

At the same time, I think it is high time the Government should do something about the antiquities which have been removed from this country to countries overseas. These should be brought back to our country. Everything possible should be done to bring this about.

There was a case last year when an antiquity which was said to belong to Nigeria was found in Paris. We also read and heard over the radio that the expatriate Director had to fly to France for consultation about our antiquity, but we have not heard anything further about this matter. We want the Federal Government to do everything possible so that these antiquities could be brought back to Nigeria. Not only the one in France, but all others all over the world.

When one visits the London Museum, one is surprised by the number of antiquities which are said to belong to Nigeria. What we have here is not up to what we have in the London Museum. The Federal Government must do something about this, and we should encourage the department to ensure that all our antiquities are preserved for our future generations.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East) : On this Head of Antiquities, I have a very few remarks to make. First of all, I must thank the Minister for all the troubles he has taken to recover some of the stolen antiquities from overseas. Well, any Minister who goes to the extent of consulting the Interpol and all other agencies in order to recover stolen property or antiquities of his country deserves to be congratulated and praised. These antiquities were stolen by people who were interested in them. Some of the antiquities are of very great value to this country.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe** (Orlu West): On a point of order, it seems to me from observation that the word 'antiquity' in this House means a different thing. If antiquity means a "human-being", and the Member for Benin East (*Chief Oronsaye*) is alleging that some people stole such a thing, is that not trading in slaves?

**Chief Oronsaye**: Well, under the Sub-head dealing with Archaeologists, Ethnographers and Curators, I observe that a total sum of £6,840 is to be spent. Now, I think that if Government money is to be spent on anything the public is entitled to know exactly what benefits are to be got from the expense.

Last year I made this point on the archaeologists especially, because an Archaeologist's job of looking for antiquities under the ground and everywhere is a unique one. So, if the Archaeologists are really working then there should be some publicity.

Last year, that is 1962-63, there was a huge amount voted for publicity, or rather for publications (if I may regard it that way). But throughout the whole of last year which ended on the 31st of last month I did not see anything published in any of the Nigerian journals showing the activities of these archaeologists. They are said to be active at Ife. Perhaps, they are digging up certain things there. But if people are engaged in digging up these things the public who subscribe this money by way of taxation are entitled to know what has been got as a result of this excavation.

I have said that at Benin quite a number of things were buried deep in the ground due to the excessive ambition of some soldiers during the Benin expedition. If these archaeologists are really working hard they should do something to unearth some of these things that are under the ground.

There are other places in Benin Division which are believed to have a good deal of highly expensive antiquities under the ground. I know that at present these things are usually associated with *juju* shrines and so on, but if the archaeologists are really what they are supposed to be they should have no difficulty in initiating themselves into those *juju* organisations and have the facility to dig up some of the antiquities under the ground.

I heard someone saying that Archaeologists would be killed if they attempted to dig those antiquities in *juju* shrines, but may I say that once they became members of the cult they would not be killed by anybody. So, we want to see some more activities of the Archaeologists, Ethnographers, and Curators.

I also observe that the publicity which is expected to be done in respect of the things dug up has not been done. There should be sufficient publicity for the work being done by all these people especially the other group of people apart from the Archaeologist, and these are the Facsimile Moulders. These people are expected to preserve the antiquities in very good cases and to have moulded some facsimile of the antiquities which can be handled without any fear of deterioration of the originals. So we want to see some more of this work being done by these people. It is the publicity that matters.

I notice that there are many Antiquity Assistants and many Binder Repairers. These Antiquity Assistants, I think, apart from whatever they should be doing for museums are expected to go round and meet the people. They should get themselves used to the ways of life of the different parts of Nigeria. It is only in this way that they can get the antiquities of the country into the various museums that are being established in the Regions.

I also observe that there is one Head Gardener and 3 Assistant Gardeners, and these people would bag £510. It would be interesting to know what antique plants they have cultivated.

If we call a place a museum it should be a museum in every sense of the word. We should have, for instance, around the place some of the plants which existed some years ago and are now dying out, and it should be cultivated with some great ease by these people who are expected to be specialists. I suppose the Minister is taking note of all these points.

I have also observed that £1,000 has been voted for publications. I am afraid that this money is not being used fully. Perhaps, one way of using this money would be to advertise some of these things in the local dailies because everybody reads these dailies.

[CHIEF ORANSAYE]

Instead of using this £1,000 for publishing some obscure literature which, perhaps, one or two people would read, it could be necessary to spend about £800 to advertise them in the national papers from where everybody would know what is actually going on.

There are many marvellous things in the shrines and other places in the country. There is for instance in some part of the country a stone that appears at some time during the month according to the phase of the moon and at some other time it disappears.

If publicity is given to what has been found by those in charge there would have been the temptation for people to bring out what they have. That is one of the ways by which you can get these things out. Nigeria is potentially rich in antiquities, but what I require now is that these things should be known to the people not only of Nigeria but to people who come from other parts of the world.

I notice that £7,000 is to be used for protection for photography and for the excavation of antiquities. What I have said before about archaeologists is greatly confirmed by this one. I must say right away that if the Government decided to vote £300,000 on excavation I would be one of the first to move that the vote should be accepted.

The money should be used for the purpose for which it is voted. It is time for everybody—the schools, cultural organisations and all bodies to know what is happening. It is only in this way that we will know our past.

I observe that £43,000 is to be spent for the up keep of Scheduled Monuments. We have monuments of great value.

**Mr J. S. Tarka** (Jemgba) : On a point of order, I wish to suggest that we make the car of the Member for Benin East (*Chief Oronsaye*) a national monument.

**Mr D. D. U. Okay** (Port Harcourt) : On a point of order, during the last year's Budget Session, many Members expressed the view that the Member for Benin East (*Chief Oronsaye*) and his car be acquired as national monument.

**Chief Oronsaye** : In the case of monuments there is never a time in history where human beings are part of monuments.

The first car and bicycle to be manufactured should be in a museum now.

Finally I support the expenditure of £1,200 for the maintenance of Rolling Musuem. I would like every part of the country to have an opportunity of getting an advantage of this Rolling Musuem. If it is concentrated only along the railway lines then it is lost to other parts of the country.

I know that the U.N.E.S.C.O. contributes a lot of money towards this particular venture, but I think that our contribution should be made use of in such a way that other parts of the country that are not on the railway line should enjoy it.

With these few remarks I beg to support.

*£87,500 for Head 37—Antiquities—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

#### HEAD 38.—NATIONAL ARCHIVES

*£84,540 for Head 38.—National Archives—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

#### HEAD 39.—MINISTRY OF ESTABLISHMENTS AND SERVICE MATTERS

*Question proposed, That £509,900 for Head 39.—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyarma** (Hadejia North) : I rise to speak on Head 39, Ministry of Establishments and Service Matters. A recent pamphlet published by the Government in a region showed that tribal considerations govern appointments as heads of departments. This honourable House must denounce tribalism, partiality and selfishness in our civil service. It is now an open secret that some ethnic group have formed recruitment clubs to comb Ministries to find out where there are vacancies to be filled.

They arrange with posting committees to fill vacancies with people of their own choosing. This state of affairs is now very common.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of order, may I appeal to the Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Gauyarma*) to be relevant to the Head under discussion. I am appealing very seriously because we do not want tension in the country. It is enough. A thing that is overdone is good for nothing. Let us talk

*House of Representatives Debates*

1757

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

6 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1758

less of tribe and talk more of Nigeria as the Prime Minister said on the Floor of this House a few days ago. I believe people have heard enough about tribalism. Those who have ears to hear, let them hear.

**Alhaji Gauyarma :** This is not only bad but it degrades our civil service and ruins our efficiency. It is also a fact that an officer who does not belong to these clubs is written off and will never be promoted. His petitions are never considered no matter how right.

There are talents which can serve this country but because they do not belong to these clubs they are not fit for promotion or to be offered appointments.

I am not saying that the Minister of Establishments does know about this but it is known to many people. If we cannot, in fourth year of our independence build a truly Nigerian civil service, then there is little else we can be proud of.

Let the Minister of Establishments issue a stern warning disbanding all the tribal Posting Committees, Ibo Posting Committees, Yoruba Posting Committees and others which are very many in the civil service.

If he does this his name will go down in history as one of the greatest architects of Nigerian unity. The Prime Minister, Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa recently said that we should speak less of tribes in this country.

I think it is in the Civil Service that people talk more of tribalism than elsewhere. As such, I want the Minister of Establishments to institute a commission of inquiry. If he did, he would be surprised to find out certain things which go on in the Ministries. When these facts are known he should take it upon himself to break all these tribal clubs.

On the other hand, there are certain civil servants whose reputations have been ruined by these ugly campaign groups. This is a very serious situation and I would like the Minister of Establishments to take a very serious view of these clubs and cults. It is a pity that Nigeria is losing immensely because of these ill-feelings.

I hope I have said enough in order to put the Minister of Establishments on the alert. When next I come to this House and notice that

these secret cults have not been disbanded, I shall use my parliamentary privilege to mention names on the Floor of this House.

I want to call upon the Minister of Establishments to give us an incorruptible civil service and then, the unity of this country shall have been truly laid.

I beg to support.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai East) :** There have been demands by the workers of this country for increases in their wages as a result of which the Morgan Commission of Inquiry was set up. The report of the Inquiry is being eagerly awaited by all sides of the community.

While I do not wish to prejudice the report of the Commission, I would like to say that in order to make life worth living for our workers they certainly must be given increases in their salaries, and it is also expected that whenever the report is published the workers will be given arrears. That is very important and we hope that the publication of the report will not be further delayed.

I beg to support.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) :** I want to congratulate the Minister of Establishments for the able way in which he has been handling the affairs of the Federation. However, there are certain points I want to make and the first one is about the Official Secrets Act which this House passed some time ago.

I still find that in many important Government Departments there have been allegations of leakages. Even in the Cabinet, as soon as a vital decision is taken what we find is that the decision is published in some of our daily newspapers. This is very important and it means that we are not safe in this country.

It has been alleged that some top civil servants were paid substantial sums of money so as to get some important documents photocopied. The sad thing is that people who are responsible for divulging these informations are the people who are already highly paid in the civil service.

I am not quarrelling with the high salaries paid to civil servants. What I am crying about is that these people are making the country unsafe for millions of Nigerians who inhabit

[MR OKORONKWO]

this country to-day. There are some civil servants who can sell their fathers and mothers in order to get money.

I hear somebody say that some people offer their sisters. I want to confirm that this is quite true. I want to say that before anybody is put in charge of important documents, his antecedents must have been checked properly and found to be unimpeachable. I am saying all these things so as to bring to the notice of the Government the necessity to tighten the security of the nation.

Another point I would like to touch upon is this question of tribalism which seems to be reigning supreme in the country to-day. The position is that some individuals, some political turncoats and others who have lost control of the masses because of their unsteadfastness still want to cling to power and as such they have resorted to preaching tribalism and appealing to tribal sentiments.

**M. Ibrahim Muku** (Bida West) : On a point of order, what the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) should suggest to this House is to ask the Government to dismiss the Chairman of the Nigerian Railway Corporation.

**The Chairman** : Order ! The point of order should be relevant to the point being discussed.

**Mr Okoronkwo** : I am saying that the revival of tribalism in this country at this time of our development will not lead us anywhere. Everyday we shout at the top of our voices that we want unity in the country. At the same time, some individuals and some politicians work day and night to make unity impossible in the country.

Not only that, there are some newspapers in the country whose news items and editorials do not make for unity at all. It is my opinion that unity cannot be brought about by mere noise making. It can only be brought about with the co-operation of everybody in the country. There is no reason why a Regional Government should publish a *White Paper* the contents of which do not make for unity in this country at all. I am happy, however, that the truth is gradually coming out.

We fought against the British people and drove them off because we felt that they divided us. Now, it is we who are now fighting against

ourselves. There is a newspaper which has just been launched and which indulges in preaching tribalism.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : On a point of order, if one looks at the *Daily Sketch* one will see that it is the headline that is worrying the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*). And that is why he is making so much noise about tribalism.

**Mr F. I. Okonkwo** : I have said that some newspapers are causing a lot of harm to the nation, but that is not all. Those who are responsible for the publication of such articles are also responsible for the disunity of Nigeria.

I hear an hon. Member ask what about the *Pilot*. But I am not holding brief for any newspaper. I am not holding brief for the *Pilot*, the *Morning Post* or the so-called *Daily Sketch* the enemy of Nigerian progress, that is that newspaper which an hon. Member who is old enough to go to the Senate mentioned.

**The Chairman** : This is irrelevant.

**Mr Okoronkwo** : I have made it clear that the Leaders of Nigeria should sit together in order to solve the issue of disunity which has been formulated by certain political agents.

**Mr J. M. Damla** (Pankshin West) : On a point of order, if we really want to achieve the unity of this country, the first thing for us to do is to ban the Ibo National Day and the Ibo State Union.

**Several hon. Members** : Sit down !

**Mr Okoronkwo** : I refuse to mention the Ibo National Day. I want the hon. Member to understand that the way attacks are being attack the Ibos on the Floor of this House should realise that they are playing with fire.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi** (Afenmai East) : I would like, on a point of order, to appeal to Members to remember that in the Mid-West there are tribes there and there is no need for some worried tribes to give the impression that they are the only tribes existing in Nigeria.

**Mr Okoronkwo** : I am issuing it as a warning that the Floor of this House is not made for people to attack Ibos, and I am assuring them that the Ibos can always take care of themselves.

*House of Representatives Debates*

1759

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

6 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1762

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments** (Mr Akubakar Isandu): On a point of order as the hon. Member has said, we have many tribes here. We would like to know, and it will be in the interest of this House, for the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) to tell us whether he is speaking for the Ibos or for Nigeria. Why is he defending the Ibos here?

**The Chairman**: We are discussing the Ministry of Establishments.

**Mr Okoronkwo**: I am now speaking on Nigerianisation. For the effort made in this field, the Minister and the Government should be congratulated. The Minister of Establishments should put in more effort to see that the executive posts held by expatriate officers are now filled by qualified Nigerian.

About the leakage of official secrets which I mentioned earlier, this was not the case when expatriate officers were here. We should now try to recruit honest men only and promote them. Discrimination in promotion should not arise in the Federal service, and the Minister of Establishments should also see to it to give more scholarships to our people, train them in all important fields in order that they can man the service of the Federation.

I beg to support.

*The Minister of Finance rose—*

**The Chairman**: I hope the Minister is going to speak on Establishments?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: No, Sir. All I want to do, Mr Chairman, if you kindly permit me, is to appeal to hon. Members that in the discussions that we have in this House, we should realise that this is a national house, and the House of Representatives in which there are 312 people representing over 200 linguistic groups in Nigeria. Let us leave this question of tribe to the Regions. On the Floor of this House, let us realise—I am speaking very seriously because all of us in this House used to say that we respect the Prime Minister, that he is an honest man and that he is upright. It is true he is, but I think that if the Prime Minister makes an appeal to the nation through this House, we should heed it. I do not want to be in a place like the Congo.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): On a point of order, I want to remind the Minister of Finance that if he thinks that certain people in this House have gone against the advice of the Prime Minister, he must be brave enough to say so.

**Several hon. Members**: That is what he is saying.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: My hon. Friend will appreciate that it is people like ourselves that should be able to say these things because we do not want to break this country into pieces. We are happy that we are sending our soldiers to other places to maintain peace. We do not want people to send soldiers here to maintain peace. In the same way, I appeal seriously, on behalf of the Prime Minister again, that this is the House of Representatives of the whole Federation and people who feel that this country must keep together should forget all about tribe. I want to say that those who speak about tribe and those who practise tribalism are all guilty. So, let those who practise and those who speak be quiet for a moment and let us realise that we cannot toy with even my small tribe, Itshekiri. If one tries to mention Itshekiri everyday, I will be annoyed, not to talk of great tribes like the Yorubas, Ibos and Hausas. These three tribes are very important in this country and any clash between any two of them will land us in some places we do not know. We do not want it.

I am appealing to hon. Members here that we should desist from doing it. Afterwards if the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) wants to go into this question of favouritism, he will find that it is favouritism of the clannish interest of the individuals concerned, and not the whole tribe. Take for instance, if I want to favour people, I would not even go to the Itshekiris, but I would go to my small Sapele or Warri. Would you in that case mention the whole of Itshekiri people?

I am grateful to you, Mr Chairman, for allowing me to speak a little bit out of order in this regard. I honestly appeal to hon. Members to forget all about tribe. In this House we have been acting like friends and brothers. Let us continue to act as friends and brothers. The people responsible are not here. Even if they are, let us forget about it for a moment



[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

and heed the appeal of the Prime Minister. We have had some tension and very soon, perhaps, people would like to resolve it. Why should we be the people to be talking about it? Is that an election campaign? Is that how the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) is going to win his seat in Ijebu-Ode?

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): While speaking on this Head, I wish to make this plain, that in my humble opinion the Minister of Establishments is an able man. He has travelled extensively in various parts of the Federation and has seen things as they are. I have been able to know that the Minister of Establishments has travelled quite a lot in this country because I have on many occasions met him while he was making some of his journeys to the countryside. But I must warn the Minister of Establishments that if all his aspirations and interest in his Ministry will be fully realised, he should see to it that practical establishment of civil servants, including those in the Statutory Corporations, is maintained.

May I say, Mr Chairman, what I have in mind? Let us focus our minds on other countries abroad, especially those that are just developing. One can easily see that Nigeria is the only country in the world where Government provides houses for indigenous civil servants. I say this without any reservation. Nigeria is the only place.

A Member has just mentioned Ghana and Sierra Leone. May I ask of him, what is the population of Ghana? What is the population of Sierra Leone? How can one compare the population of Nigeria with the population of either Ghana or Sierra Leone? I hope that the Member will not lead me to underrate those places. But Sierra Leone is not more populous than the whole of Ijebu.

So, if we had provided accommodation for expatriate officers who were here during our colonial days, now that they are no more here and we have indigenous officers in their places, we should no longer reserve those accommodations at the expense of the Government. I am sure that we have more than two thousand buildings of this kind. Those that are still occupied by expatriate officers could be reserved while those that are allocated to indigenous officers should be sold forthwith and

the money realised from them should be utilised in providing other amenities. There are several blocks of flats—some are six storey and some are less—in Ikoyi, Ikeja, Apapa and other places in the Federal Territory.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban): On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman is trying to mislead this House by suggesting that Government should sell its property. He is advocating the sale of those houses because he wants to buy them as he has made a lot of money through foul means and through crossing from one party to another.

**The Chairman**: Order. The Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) has already had sufficient discussion on this subject.

**Mr Odulana**: There is no reason why I should not employ the Member for Aba Urban's father as a highway robber if I had the money.

So, my advice is that Government should sell those houses immediately, except those occupied by expatriate officers. Everyone of us will be happy to hear it if the Minister of Finance comes here tomorrow and says that he has sold about six hundred of those houses at thirty thousand pounds each. We all know what that will amount to. We shall have a huge sum of money and the Minister will travel less to borrow money from abroad. We have money in this country. Why should the Minister then continue to go to borrow money from Australia, from India, Pakistan or England? I think that selling those houses occupied by indigenous officers will solve this problem of going about to borrow money. So let us make use of what we have here.

**Chief R. A. Orok**: (Abak North East): I rise on a point of order. My point of order, Mr Chairman, is that the hon. Gentleman is talking about our going to India and other places. How can he prove that Nigeria which is one of the richest countries in the whole world can go to borrow money from India?

**Mr Odulana**: As I have said, the Minister of Establishments is an able man and the Minister of Finance is an experienced man. Both of them, I am sure, understand what I am saying.

*House of Representatives Debates*

1765

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

6 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1766

If one goes out one will see that what is worrying people all over the world to-day is money. If we have got money within Nigeria, there is no need to go abroad borrowing. Talking in all seriousness, if the Minister of Establishments and the Minister of Finance will put heads together and heed my advice, I am sure that Nigeria will be the better for it.

Some of these houses are worth thirty thousand pounds each. Government should proceed with selling them immediately. If they wait till tomorrow those houses will not be worth what they are worth to-day. Houses that are worth thirty thousand pounds to-day will worth about five thousand pounds in about ten years' time. I can hear some Members saying "No, no. They do not know even the simple principles of business. Most of them have never built a house. Some Members here do not know what is meant by market fluctuations.

Government is reclaiming several places at Ikoyi, Apapa, Victoria Island, and so on. Government has given many Embassies and firms land and they are putting up their own buildings on them. When these bodies have got enough houses of their own, who will buy those houses that I am suggesting to Government to sell? So the Minister should take a decision now and sell those houses.

Every day workers of this country agitate for more wages. They forget that when a man who is earning ten pounds to-day is given a pay rise and he earns twenty pounds tomorrow, house rents will rise; the market woman will increase the price of foodstuffs, and the price of every other thing will rise even above the proportionate rise of pay. Everyone of us here knows that the Minister cannot satisfy all the workers in this country. All we want for workers in this country is an adequate salary which they will use in maintaining themselves and their dependants. We do not want additional money which will eventually be drawn away from workers by Kingsway Stores, market women and house owners.

I beg to support.

**M. Yusha'a A. Mohammed** (Kubau Soḅa): I would like first of all to congratulate the Minister of Establishments and Service Matters on the progress already made in his Ministry. At the same time, I want to tell the Minister

that it is not only establishments that matter but also service matters, which are now being neglected. For this reason, I would like to appeal to the Minister to find ways and means of helping our boys now being recruited into the service from all parts of the Federation.

We have discovered that some of our boys who normally come to Lagos to work or to seek employment do not always like to live in Lagos for some reasons. The first is the lack of accommodation, the second is that when some of these boys, especially those who come from Northern Nigeria, are in Lagos they stay and work here for two or three months without being paid their salaries. The Government should realise that these boys who are so badly treated are human beings and they should therefore be given special consideration.

Another point that I want to refer to is the treatment being meted out to Northerners. The recent events about a White Paper publication have shown that we Northerners have been cheated. I think it is high time that that Minister should realise that there are people who are being recruited in his Ministry with artificial certificates, by this I mean unrecognised certificates, whereas there are Northerners who are looking for work but will not be employed until they have produced a Higher School Certificate. I feel that the Minister should take this very important matter seriously.

I therefore want to appeal to the Minister to try and encourage Northerners to come to the Federal Civil Service, He can do so by making, say, a three-month tour of the North, visit some of our schools and address our children who are about to leave schools so that when they leave they will be interested in the Federal civil service. Unless the Minister does this, the Northerners will continue to be cheated by those who think that they are superior either because of their early contact with western education or something else.

The Minister should also work in collaboration with the Minister of Lagos Affairs so that whenever he goes on tour to recruit some boys he will be sure that when those boys are here in Lagos they will have good accommodation. After all, we have the Surulere Housing Estate where these boys can easily be accommodated.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr A. A. Ajibola** (Egbado South) : I rise to make a few observations on this Head—Ministry of Establishments.

On the 1st of April, 1964 the Minister, on the Floor of this House, made a certain policy statement which I am going to criticise this afternoon. With your permission, Mr Chairman, I will read the particular section dealing with Housing Scheme. On the day in question the Minister said as follows :—

*“My Ministry is not only concerned with making working conditions more pleasant for our civil servants, but also lays great stress on helping them to provide themselves with up-to-date living accommodation. We have been able to make some progress in this direction during the last year, but not nearly as much as we would have liked.”*

*This aspect of my Ministry's work is carried out by the African Staff Housing Board whose members consist of officials and representatives of Staff Associations. This Board disburses loans to established members of the Public Service who wish to purchase land or buildings within the Federal territory of Lagos. The importance of this scheme is recognised by Government, having made £1.8 million available to it under the Six-Year Development Plan.*

*Applications are dealt with in the strictest chronological order which means “first come, first served” and loans are granted up to five times an officer's annual subject to a maximum of £6,000.*

*I should like to take this opportunity to dispel any idea that the main beneficiaries of this scheme are the most senior civil servants. This is not so. The majority of applications, over 800 in number, are from those whose salary scales begin at £450 per annum and below.”*

Now, when I go through this speech made by the Minister about the policy of the Federal Government on Housing Scheme, I feel not very happy at all. If we observe what is obtaining in other countries we shall see that the policy of the Federal Government in providing accommodation for workers of the low income group is not good.

Let us take a country like Ghana which is very near us here as an example and see what their Government is doing by way of providing

the workers with accommodation. The houses provided for the workers by the Ghana Government are very impressive to look at.

Last year, I was lucky to be a member of a Parliamentary Delegation to Malaysia, and during our tour of that country we found out that the Government of Malaysia gives priority to providing Housing accommodation for workers.

But what we have seen here in Nigeria shows that the Government is not taking the question of providing accommodation for our workers very seriously. If the Government does not take this matter very seriously, the workers will continue to pay very high rents for the houses which they occupy. We therefore want the Government to borrow a leaf from some other countries and give special attention to workers' accommodation so that they in turn will be happy and give us the best of service required.

Secondly, I want to advise that we should have some other Ministries which would deal with some other aspects of our public service. In this respect I suggest that we have one Ministry which will be in charge of Sports. The performance of our country in Sports compared with other countries has not been all that impressive.

**The Chairman** : Order. Sport has nothing to do with Establishments.

**Mr Ajibola** : I know that this does not come directly under the Ministry of Establishments, but I feel that I can just make a little digression because, after all, what affects the country as a whole affects the Federal Government, and since there is collective responsibility for the Government, I feel that I can just make a side issue of it by making that remark that the participation of our country in Sports—

**The Chairman** : But there is no collective irrelevance.

**Mr Ajibola** : In any case, I wish to say that civil servants should be encouraged to take part in sports and if possible, we should have a special section of the civil service that will be dealing with sports in this country.

I beg to support.

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu) : I thank the Chairman for this opportunity he has given me.

House of Representatives Debates

1769

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

6 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1770

One of the Ministers who is working very hard is the Minister of Establishments, and Service Matters. He has done very well indeed as far as Nigerianisation is concerned.

We have just heard of the promotion of Mr Faturoti as the Chief Inspector of Mines. For the first time, a Nigerian has reached the top in the Mines Department. Members are aware of the fact that Mines is a peculiar department in which one must really be well qualified before being promoted to the top. And for the first time a Nigerian is the Head of that Department.

I heard someone asking me what tribe Mr Faturoti belongs to, but I am not prepared to talk about tribe here. It is very degrading for me to get up here and discuss that. I feel we are here to talk responsibly and to represent our constituencies in a very serious manner.

What I am saying is that the Minister is doing very well in his Nigerianisation policy. The promotion of this youngman is very encouraging indeed.

What I wish to point out is the question of salary review for the workers. I say this because I come from a predominantly working class area. Enugu is mostly inhabited by workers of all classes.

**The Chairman :** Order ! I believe that the Morgan Wages Commission is already busy on the question of salary review, and we should not anticipate its Report.

**Mr Chiedozie :** I do not think that I want to anticipate its Report at all. I feel it is right for me to tell the Minister to cater for the welfare of the workers. I am only trying to help the Minister by pointing out this to him.

**The Chairman :** I certainly do not intend to evoke any dialogue between the Member for Enugu ((*Mr Chiedozie*) and the Chair. I said we should not anticipate the Report, and if the hon. Gentleman does not want to abide by that, he may go ahead.

**Mr Chiedozie :** Another point I would like to touch is the work of the National Council on Establishment. The Minister should try his best to see that the question which is before that body now, that is the question of grading the pharmacists in Scale A, and according them professional recognition, is peacefully settled.

The Minister of Health has told this House that the matter is now under the consideration of the National Council on Establishment, and that the final decision depends on that body.

I am therefore asking the Minister to look into this important matter and make the pharmacists a professional body. When the Minister announces this decision, he will see the cheers that will welcome it, and he will receive commendations from every quarter of the Federation.

In the question of housing facilities for the workers, I think the Government is taking good care of this matter, but I implore the Government to go a little further and make as many workers as there are enjoy this amenity. The idea is to make every worker live in a reasonably good house. There is no doubt that providing such houses for the low income workers is a very big encouragement to them all.

The Government should pursue this policy with still more vigour and make everybody benefit from it. I want to say that I am very proud of the Minister of Establishments and Service Matters' work, and so I beg to support the expenditure on this Head.

**M. Sule Abba Biu (Biu North):** In supporting this Head, I have to make one point and that is on Children's Separate Domicile Allowance.

I understand that this Sub-head has been put there to enable payments to be made to parents or employees who are Nigerians but whose children are not staying with them, may be because of transfer. As a result the allowance is paid direct to the parents. Why should these people not take their children along with them and live together.

The second point is on the condition of service of the workers in Nigeria. The workers have been thanking the Minister of Establishments and I have been thanking him too. The workers of this country have been doing their best to work very hard and therefore I think that they rightly deserve some encouragement. These people are not feeling very secure in their various employments and I do sincerely implore the Minister to do all in his power to make them feel secure in their jobs.

[M. BIV]

The other day there was a speculation in the newspapers to the effect that an official of a corporation had been dismissed from office. I gather that his dismissal was based on unsubstantiated allegation, no enquiry was instituted, no investigation was made, and he was not given the chance to defend himself.

I think the time has come when the responsibility for dismissing and disciplining of corporation employees should be transferred to the Ministry of Establishments.

What I am saying is very important because one cannot just stop an employee from work by simply sending him a letter of termination. This is an ill-treatment.

*Whereupon the Member for Lowland East (Mr S. D. Lar) 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.*

*£509,900 for Head 39—Ministry of Establishments and Service Matters—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

#### HEAD 40.—PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES

*Question proposed, That £813,750 for Head 40—Pensions and Gratuities—stand part of the Schedule.*

**M. Ahmadu Ribadu** (Adamawa East) : All I want to say is to appeal to the Minister to come to the aid of some pensioners who are suffering greatly. There are some pensioners who, although are now working for the Native Authorities or for the Northern civil service, were at one time or the other in the federal civil service. These people suffer greatly before they get their pensions, and if any of them travelled from the North to Lagos in order to enquire about his pension money he would encounter great inconvenience, difficulties and expense. In any case if he does come to Lagos, he will have nowhere to stay.

I am therefore appealing to the Minister to set up a sort of appeal board whereby people so affected can lodge their complaints about the non-payment of their pensions. I am making this appeal because I think that the Minister will not have the time to go through

all letters of complaints sent to him from the various parts of the country.

I have so many instances of these cases, but, unfortunately, there is no need for me to quote them now. I only want to point this out to make it known to the Minister that there are pensioners who are suffering greatly, and to appeal to the Minister himself to do something quickly for these people.

**Mr N. E. Elenwa** (Ahoada West) : I am rising up to speak on this Head and I think I shall make it as precise as possible.

As I said here last year, I do not think that the government has done anything to improve the lot of the people who have retired from the Federal civil service. I have so many instances where civil servants who retired have to wait over two or three years before they start getting their pensions money.

I am calling on the government to ensure that if somebody is about to retire in about three or six months' time, arrangement should be made to work out his pension rights so that a month after his retirement he could start receiving his pension. We should not allow a retired servant to have to wait for upwards of six months or more before starting to get his money.

Another point is about complaints from people who retire from the civil service in 1956. These people, about five or six of them from the Medical Department, have been writing to the Ministry of Establishments but up to now nothing has been done.

Just a few days ago the Minister said in reply to a question that these men were not entitled to any payment, but in reality these men in question are entitled to pension. They did not retire themselves, and they had worked for over fifteen years in the service. So I feel the Minister should reconsider his stand on this matter.

**The Minister of Establishments** (Mr J. C. Obande) : I would like to say a few words as regards the question of pension and gratuity which the Member for Adamawa East (*M. Ahmadu Ribadu*) raised. If hon. Members will recollect, when I made my Ministerial statement in support of the Appropriation Bill, I told this House that every step is being taken to make prompt payments to pensioners.

In respect of the Member for Ahoada West (*Mr Elenwa*) his is a special case. He worked in the North, and when it came to deciding whether to continue to work in the North or to return to any other Region of one's choice, he decided not to continue to work in the Northern Region. So he had to resign when he was not forty-five.

**Mr Elenwa :** On a point of order, I did not resign, the department retired me; so that I am entitled to my pension.

**Mr Obande :** As he was not forty-five at the time he left the service, he is not entitled to any payment.

£813,750 for Head 40—Pensions and Gratuities—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 41—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

*Question proposed, That £1,674,690 for Head 41—Ministry of Finance—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyarma** (Hadejia North) : I beg to speak on Head 41 — Ministry of Finance — because of its importance.

At the outset, I want to say that the Minister of Finance, both as Leader of the House, and because of his personal prestige, has succeeded in covering up many things from this House.

Quite often, when cases of misuse of public funds are raised in this House, he will get up and say that it is not true, that such allegations are baseless, and that we are only making ourselves the laughing stock of the public and the world by making such wild allegations which we know will be printed in the *Hansard*.

Truth is bitter, and the Minister cannot continue to exonerate himself and his Ministry by simply denying these facts. Let the public and the world read the truth in our *Hansard*. Nigerian cannot correct her mistakes, readjust herself, and improve the lot of her people by running away from constructive criticisms.

There are only three things that the Minister has not succeeded in doing. Firstly, he has not been able to cover up the charges of squandermania in the Audit Report; secondly, he has not been able to stop the misuse of public funds at any moment; and thirdly, he has not succeeded in erasing from the minds of the

public the impression that those at the top can grab money that belongs to the public and get away without trouble.

**The Minister of Aviation** (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe) : I do not know what the Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Gauyarma*) means by the language "people on top". I take serious objection to the language as it implies motive.

**The Chairman :** In view of the vagueness of the definition of 'top', I do not know if the hon. Gentleman speaking could be a little more specific in order to save the nation and other important personalities from unnecessary embarrassment.

**Alhaji Gauyarma :** By the people on top, I mean people at the peak of the ladder.

In fact, I am one of those who will not accept the statement that the Ministry of Finance is still in correspondence over loss of large sums of money. Let a man steal one pound and he is immediately brought before the police and charged with stealing public fund. The offenders would be tried in the Court and the law will take its course.

**Mr D. D. U. Okay** (Port Harcourt) : On a point of order, may I remind the Chair and this honourable House that the Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Gauyarma*) has always praised the N.P.C. Ministers on the Floor of this House and has always criticised all other Ministers who are non-members of the N.P.C. I want it to be put on record that this type of behaviour by a Member of Parliament is bad.

**The Chairman :** I cannot say much about the contents of the hon. Member's past speeches, but as far as the present speech is concerned, he has left it quite nebulous. "People on top" and "people at the peak" are fairly general terms, but I had thought that the hon. Member would be a little more specific in order to save the nation from embarrassment.

**Alhaji Gauyarma :** I am also on top. The Minister of Finance is to be congratulated for many things. I know he will take advice when he is given one even though he is always upset and worried when criticised.

The Minister should be congratulated for the creation of the Development Bank. He

[ALHAJI GAUYARMA]  
should be congratulated for the proposal to print our currency locally, and for his success negotiation loans for this country abroad.

I am sure, that if it were not for his industry and enterprise, these things would not have been possible.

**Mr N. E. Elenwa** (Ahoada West): On a point of order, may I refer to Standing Order No. 26 (1) which says that—

*A Member shall not read his speech, but he may read short extracts from books or papers in support of his argument, and may refresh his memory by reference to notes.*

The hon. Gentleman is reading.

**The Chairman**: I am quite conversant with the section of the Standing Order referred to, but I notice that the practice of refreshing memory is taking the shape of "continuous gaze" at notes.

I do hope that from now onwards, hon. Members will learn to look up more frequently while they refer to their notes

**Alhaji Gauyarma**: At home, the Ministry of Finance is not doing much to give us hope. The question I want to ask is this: who releases all these monies that go into questionable pockets? Can the Minister of Finance explain to the public how some people come about public money which they pass into their private bank accounts for their own disbursement? Is there another meaning for the word "conversion" other than that known to the legal world?

Many things I would have liked to speak about have already been covered by the Audit Report. The public now knows that our Treasury can be plundered with impunity at any time, and at any moment.

Let the Minister of Finance make a public statement on this plundering of public funds. The cloud is already gathering on certain people who have disgraced Nigeria and put her to shame.

The world is watching us. The ordinary people who voted us here as custodians of the people's trust are watching us too.

It will be a sad day, when hon. Members get out of this House and cannot enter into their cars because the members of the public, who want their own share of the booty and can no longer wait as onlookers' have mobbed them.

Let the Minister of Finance, as the leader of this House and the "ring leader" of, or the financial adviser to, other Ministries make a statement here and tell the world how this losses have come about.

**The Chairman**: We have freedom of speech and certainly a great latitude for expression, but I think the word "ring leader" being associated with any Minister of this Federation is so serious that we cannot allow it to go on record. If the hon. Gentleman means leadership in the legitimate sense of it, that could be understood, but it will make nonsense of us, if people read from our *Hansard* that our Ministers are being described as "ring leaders".

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice** (Mr R. B. K. Okafor): On a point of order, I would like the Chairman to stop the Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Gauyarma*) because in the first place, he is not sufficiently responsible in my own estimation.

Secondly, the speech he is reading was written for him and he has come to deliver it in this House in order to damage the image of Nigeria. We must stop him from talking nonsense.

**The Chairman**: I think for one thing, the Minister of Finance is a capable debater and can take charge of all points made; but what the Chairman is here to do, is to guard against the use of improper language and turning the House into something other than an honourable House.

**Alhaji Gauyarma**: The junior Minister is also talking nonsense.

**Mr Okay**: On a point of order, if the Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Gauyarma*) can tell this house that the speech he is reading was prepared for him, then we can understand and can as well meet him equally on the same ground.

**The Chairman**: I think the hon. Gentleman is referring to his notes, but let him not be too persistent in his reference.

**Alhaji Gauyarma**: I have only a few pages more remaining. I will soon finish.

**The Chairman**: The hon. Member has so far enjoyed the protection of the Chair. By saying that he has a few pages to finish, is he confirming then that he is reading?

**Alhaji Gauyarma :** The Minister of Finance should make a statement about the losses incurred as a result of squandermania of public funds—the money belonging to our Federal Republic.

He will, in so doing, save his own name, our own name, and the reputation of Nigeria as a whole. At the present, Nigeria's reputation has been dragged to the mud, disgraced and made appalling, viewed from this very Audit Report, if figures and facts are correctly stated.

**Mr V. A. Emenogha (Onitsha North) :** On a point of order, the Standing Orders of this honourable House provide that the ruling of the Chairman shall be final in any respect. But the Chairman has made his ruling that the hon. Member speaking should not read his notes, but should make occasional references to his notes. If he continues to read his notes, then by tacit implication, he is challenging the ruling of the Chairman.

**The Chairman :** We will only succeed in wasting a lot of time if we go on like this. The hon. Gentleman is responsible enough to appreciate what is being said.

**Alhaji Gauyarma :** Earlier in this honourable House, points of very serious nature had been raised by hon. Members, that a lot of advantage is being taken over the Federal Government in the misuse of public money. For instance, during the recent N.C.N.C. Convention held at Kano, it is a fact that besides the installation of telephones which cost £7,000, the Railway Corporation provided the members with coaches and free accommodation. Worse still, the respected Government Ministers travelled on Government tickets to Kano.

**The Chairman :** Order, order. Has the Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Gauyarma*) finished? If he has not finished, I was going to say that references to the Railway Corporation could be more relevantly be made when we are considering the Ministry of Transport. With regard to the installation of telephones, this point could be more relevantly made on the Head of Communications, but certainly, not on the Ministry of Finance.

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West) :** On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman speaking is misleading this House. All the N.C.N.C.

members who went to the Convention paid their fares and no coaches were provided for them.

**The Chairman :** I have already made a ruling to the effect that if anyone has any queries about the Railway Corporation, he should keep his views until we come to the Ministry of Transport. I will not accept or tolerate any attempt of involving political parties in this debate. This is the Ministry of Finance and I do not think that the Ministry is responsible for our political parties.

**Alhaji Gauyarma :** In conclusion, having made my points and taking into consideration the atmosphere in the House, I wish to end by congratulating the Minister of Finance and his officials for their struggle to keep the balance steady and save the country from bankruptcy.

I beg to support.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) :** While I congratulate the Minister of Finance as an effective Minister in the Federation, I have also to point out certain irregularities that we have been coming across. These irregularities have come up in the Audit Report.

The Audit Report revealed a lot of irregularities and waste of public funds, especially in the sale of the Independence cars. It is really very unfortunate and deplorable that some individuals who bought these cars have not paid for them up till now whereas some of us were forced to pay for the ones we bought. The Federal Government even recommended us to the Lombard Bank where we borrowed money with which to pay for the cars, whereas some individuals who bought these cars with us have not paid for them up till now. This has been revealed in the Audit Report. I am pointing this out because some of the cars were sold at £1,000 or £900 but the price was later reduced to £600 and the cars were cleared.

The same thing happened in the case of Jaguar cars. They were rated at £1,500 or £1,400 while we were here in Lagos, but as soon as we left Lagos the price was reduced to £900 and they were equally cleared.

Those Ministries, individuals and higher Government Officials who have been wasting the money of the Federation, according to the



[MR OKORONKWO]

Audit Report, should be drastically dealt with by the Ministry of Finance and the nation as a whole. We cannot afford in this nation to waste our money unnecessarily when there are thousands or millions of people who have not got homes.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : On a point of order, is the hon. Member speaking now directing this House to believe that it was the Minister of Finance who sold those cars and has not collected the money for them ?

**The Chairman** : I think that some unfortunate mistake has already been made. This Audit Report, I am advised, will have to come before the Public Accounts Committee of this House, and it is after their consideration that the Audit Report together with their comments will come up for consideration in this House. It is unfortunate that I was not advised to this effect early enough. So, I do plead with Members to desist from making any extensive use of the Report.

**Mr Okoronkwo** : In accordance with your ruling, Mr Chairman, I had better drop this matter until such time as it comes up for consideration. But it may be that this is the only opportunity I shall have to say something on this matter.

**Chief D. A. Ogunleye** (Ede-Ejigbo) : I want to say just a word on the Audit Report. I remember when I was —

**The Chairman** : Order, order. I have just made a ruling on the Audit Report. I think the hon. Member should please desist from it.

**Chief Ogunleye** : I only want to stress the need for taking immediate action on the Report. The other time, I heard the Chairman say that the Minister of Finance will be tabling a Motion on the Audit Report, but now it is being said that the Report will be passed to the Public Accounts Committee. I think the earlier we can do something about this Report the better, in order to clear the air for the public.

**M. Maina Waziri** (Potiskum) : In contributing to this debate, I have to thank the Minister of Finance for the able way in which he has handled the finances of this country.

Everybody should have sympathy for the Minister of Finance because anybody who is handling the finance of a country is placed in a very awkward position. The handling of

finance is one of the things which bother the minds of many people.

Comparing our balance of payments with those of some other independent countries, we have to be proud of our position. We had our independence just three years ago, and to have got a balance of £90 million is very encouraging indeed.

Our financial position is very good in that our currency is accepted anywhere in the world. I remember that in 1961 I went to Ghana by road and was able to change Nigerian currency there easily. I had no difficulty in changing our currency. This shows that our financial strength is sound. But human beings being what they are, we cannot be one hundred *per cent* perfect. We are liable to have shortcomings. But if we consider the credit and debit sides as regards our finances, the position is very good compared with other countries of the world. We are better than some African countries which have attained their independence.

I would like to sound a note of warning to the Minister of Finance in respect of the commercial firms. The way the commercial firms are withdrawing or sending away their finances abroad is deplorable and, if we do not take time, we shall find ourselves in a very awkward position. It is even alleged in some quarters that these firms withdraw their finances in a very clever way by asking the banks to withdraw them on their behalf and send them overseas. This means that there is no written transaction for other people to know what has taken place. As a result of this, the Minister of Finance should be very vigilant.

I beg to support.

**Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa** (Benin West) : I appreciate the anxiety of Members to skip any discussion on this Ministry. But if Members appreciate that the Ministry of Finance is the real bedrock on which the economy of this Federation is founded, they will be less enthusiastic about hoping to skip any discussion on this Ministry at all.

I would like to start by saying that we are particularly grateful to the Minister of Finance for his activities in the Ministry. It is not very easy, particularly in a Federal set up as complex as ours, to get at least things working normally as they are happening in the Ministry of Finance, especially when one remembers

that we have Ministers of Finance in the Regions. The Minister of Finance is doing a tremendous job and he should be congratulated on this.

Apart from congratulating him. I would like to talk about a slightly unhappy note. We have not all been particularly happy with our balance of payments position. For some time now, we have been expecting that there will be a change, but as things stand, there has not been any appreciable change. This cannot be otherwise, realising that we are faced with a gigantic Six-Year Development Programme. Whatever it is, it should not make us a bit too complacent as regards our balance of payments position. In this regard, I think every means and every avenue by which the Minister of Finance could increase the financial position of this country would be welcome.

I would like the Minister of Finance to consider introducing property tax. By that I mean that there is no legislation setting a ceiling on the amount of property that anybody may own. It will make any amount of property over and above a particular number taxable at any rate decided by either the Cabinet or the Minister of Finance. The result of this will be that we shall be able to lessen the acquisitive interest of certain people who might feel that because they are placed in a particular position, they are able to acquire so much to the detriment of a large number of our people in this country. It will further have an advantage by way of taxation to the Government.

There are so many reasons to be advanced in support of this measure. The same force of argument we use against the highly industrialised countries—that they should come to the aid of the less developed countries—should be advanced in order to make everyone of us his brother's keeper. In that way, taxation on property will be an easy way of making everyone of us to be in a better position to be his brother's keeper.

There have been less incidents of smuggling, and of late the papers have reported quite often the number of arrests that have been made. The Minister of Finance himself did not make any specific mention of it in his Budget Speech. That is an indication that, to some extent, we have been able to combat this cankerworm which has really eaten so deep into the economy of the country. The Minister of Finance

should be congratulated on this and we expect him not to relax his efforts in this direction, because by so doing, he will be enhancing the economy of the country further.

I beg to support.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi** (Afenmai East) : I support the expenditure on this Head.

I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance for various reasons. Although I had not the opportunity to speak on the Budget Speech, it is remarkable to note in the Minister of Finance's speech that the sum of £2 million was saved as a result of his vigilance and strictness in the spending of public money. I think he should be congratulated on this. He is really the financial watchdog of the Federal Government.

The other point is the establishment of the Security Printing and Minting Company. This is a great credit to Nigeria and the Minister should be congratulated in this regard on his effort.

Several hon. Members have criticised the Government's policy of raising loans only from outside the country. The Minister of Finance has heeded their criticisms and has assured this House that a very bold step is now being taken to ensure the raising of money internally. I wish to offer some remarks here.

We have often expressed views on this national savings campaign. I feel that this campaign is not extensive enough. This is the reason why money is still buried in pots and tins by the great masses of people who have not been told what it means for them to save.

I hope the Minister would send out his team now to go to the rural areas to talk to the people about this. We would not like the Minister to send his team out on the eve of the forthcoming election, as he did during the Mid-West elections. His team should go out at a time when people are prepared to listen to them, not at a time when they are faced with any crucial issue like an election. If this is done, it will be possible to raise more money internally than we have done in the past.

I beg to support.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : I rise to support the expenditure under this Head of Finance.

If one looks at the summary of revenue Heads, one will see that a big sum of money has been recorded on the increase side of

[MR ODULANA]

Customs and Excise and also of direct taxes. This goes to prove the fact that we are having an efficient Minister of Finance.

Much has been said about the evasion of taxes from high quarters. From the Estimates, however, the amount of money to be paid by way of taxes this ensuing year is on the increase. If there is anything Members have to say about this, I think it should be by way of advice to the Minister of Finance.

For what I know the Minister of Finance to be, he has got what I can call the natural adaptability for this job he is doing for this Federation to-day. The Minister of Finance has been pretty long in this office, and as such, he is well grounded in both internal and external finances in so far as this country is concerned. He is well over fifty years of age now. He is so useful to us to-day because of his years of experience and his solid foundation.

If the finances of this country are to be properly looked after, the Minister of Finance should heed the warning I am just about to give him. I know that investors coming into this country should be encouraged, but they must not be encouraged at the expense of the Nigerian rate-payers.

I wish to draw the attention of the House to the fact that there are some indigenous Nigerian cement factories that pay a lot of taxes in this country. The cost of imported cement in this country is on the increase, yet the taxes on them are on the decrease. Imported cement has not been yielding good dividends to us, and it is worthwhile to ask ourselves the reason why.

I know of certain indigenous cement factories that have established a reputation—the Nkalagu Cement Factory, and the Ewekoro Cement Factory. I draw the attention of this House to three other cement factories whose role in this country is very questionable. They are the Koko Cement Industry (just in the making), the Lagos Cement Works and the Anglo-Canadian Cement Industry at Apapa.

The position of these three industries is uneconomic to this country, and the Minister of Finance should examine it immediately.

I have just heard an hon. Member asking whether they should be closed down. I am not saying that they should be closed down. I am asking the Minister of Finance to see to it that these three industries return to this country the revenue due to her by way of taxes.

Besides, how do these three factories carry out their operations? They do not use Nigerian limestone for making their cement. Rather, they import clinker from overseas. Hon. Members will be interested to know what clinker is. Clinker is 80 per cent finished cement. Clinker is made overseas from where it is imported to Nigeria. When it reaches Nigeria, it is packed and sold as cement. Another substance used by these industries for making cement is gypsum. They mix gypsum and limestone together to make their cement; no other raw material or chemical is used.

**The Chairman :** I think the hon. Gentleman should quickly go to the point. If he wants to say that these firms are not paying rates, he should say so definitely. The way he is discussing his point gives the impression that he is speaking under Commerce and Industry and not under Inland Revenue Head of Estimates.

**Mr Odulana :** I am much obliged to you, Mr Chairman. If I may be allowed to pursue my line of argument, I shall be able to show this honourable House how a lot of revenue has been robbed from this country by these three industries.

When the clinker, which is 80 per cent cement made overseas reaches Nigeria, 10 per cent duty is charged on it. In the case of gypsum, our limestone is added to this to make cement. But with clinker, practically nothing from this country is added. The manufacture has been completed overseas, while the industry is nominally set up in this country.

I strongly urge that 50 per cent duty should be imposed on clinker that is imported into this country. I do not mind what duty is imposed on gypsum because the Nkalagu and Ewekoro Cement Factories are using gypsum for making cement. But clinker should be heavily taxed. If they are allowed to pay just 10 per cent then they will be robbing us of 40 per cent duty.

The cost of cement *per bag* in any part of the United Kingdom is about five shillings. When this same cement is imported here, it is being sold at about twelve shillings and sixpence, *per bag*. The c.i.f. value of cement, no matter what quality and no matter from what part of the world it may be imported to this country, should not be more than six or seven shillings *per bag*. Foreign cement is

House of Representatives Debates

1785

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

6 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1796

being sold at twelve shillings and sixpence *per* bag and we charge only 10 *per cent* as duty on it.

I know the Minister of Finance is an able Minister and that he will reply to this point that I have raised. But he cannot deny that clinker is being imported to this country and sold as 80 *per cent* cement by an industry which has disguised itself as manufacturers of cement in this country—the Anglo-Canadian Cement Factory.

Who are the people in the Anglo-Canadian Cement Factory? They are the Jews. They are very competent people in cheating and evading taxes, thus robbing this country of her well-deserving revenue.

**The Chairman :** I think since our foreign policy is non-alignment, it will not be proper for the impression to go out that we have singled out any one race on earth for unjustified persecution. But if we are going to discuss irregular practices by expatriates as a generic term, that will be more appropriate.

**Mr Odulana :** I am much obliged to you, Mr Chairman. I do not mind whether the investors or their industries came from Germany or from America or from Russia. I want Nigeria to have her due share of revenue accruing from their industries.

The direct tax should be paid into this country and we must derive the exact income or revenue that we should get from them. This is all that I am talking about and this the Minister of Finance should see to.

I have just been informed that Russian cement is banned in this country so that these people importing clinker and gypsum can thrive more in this country. I do not know why Russian cement should be banned in this country and yet I have been advised by the Chairman that I should not be particular on one nation. Why should Russian cement be banned in this country? That is another thing to which the Minister of Finance should see.

If we agree that we derive from the Department of Customs and Excise the sum of £4,988,710—

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central) : On a point of order, I am afraid that my hon.

Friend, the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) does not know we are discussing Head 41 and not Head 42.

**The Chairman :** May I humbly appeal to Members to help the Chair to co-operate with Members on the Floor by being a little more brief.

**Mr Odulana :** Mr Chairman, It is the duty of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to bring these business people into this country and it is the duty of the Minister of Finance to charge the rates and taxes on the things produced by these industries. If, therefore, the Minister of Finance now wants to tell me that the Minister of Commerce and Industry is the man responsible for this business, he should better sort that out with the Minister of Commerce and Industry and they both can then look into this matter. It would then mean that when the Minister of Finance replies he will make it clear to this House which Minister has responsibility for inviting business people into this country and for the collection of rates and taxes on the products of their businesses. The Members will then take whatever explanation he has to offer.

The Minister of Finance charges fifty shillings per ton on imported cement but he charges less on the cement made by mixing clinker and gypsum, the process which is adopted here in Nigeria. Members of this House who have ever visited either Ewekoro Cement Industry or Nkalagu Cement Factory would have seen the various stages through which the raw materials go before the final product—cement—is produced and packed into the cement bags. But if one goes to the cement industry at Apapa he will discover that within ten minutes cement is produced by the process of mixing clinker with gypsum.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North) : On a point of order, the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) is speaking repetitively and he is also irrelevant.

**The Chairman :** I do not know for how long I have to keep appealing to Members to be more brief in their speeches. Although repetition may increase emphasis, it also makes a speech tedious, particularly at this time when we are trying to see if we can spread the opportunity to speak to other Members.

**Mr Odulana :** I think it is better for Nigeria to import more cement in addition to those genuine ones made here in Nigeria rather than rely on the cement produced from a mixture of clinker and gypsum, particularly when the manufacturers pay only ten *per cent* instead of about fifty *per cent* duty to this country. The manufacturers of the clinker-plus-gypsum cement are not paying what they should pay as tax, they are not paying direct tax, and I would like the Minister of Finance to look into that. It is not these industries that matter it is the benefits that Nigeria derives from them that matter.

**The Chairman :** I think that this is about the Sixth time that the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) is repeating this particular point and I am afraid that when he must have finished I may have to call on the Minister of Finance to reply.

**Mr Odulana :** I have to say that when one goes through this Draft Estimates one sees the chairmen of other departments and statutory corporations which are not earning more revenue than the Department of Customs and Excise being paid £3,100 or even £3,500 and one sees the amounts paid to the Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise, and the Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue—the man who is directly responsible for collecting all our taxes.

The Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue is the enemy of everybody because everybody labels him as the man who asks him to pay all sorts of taxes. The salary paid to the Chairmen of these two Boards is very inadequate and if it is through them that this country realises as much as it does and so much blame is put on them by the public then they should be paid adequate salaries. I would like the Minister of Finance to look into that properly well because a labourer, as they say, is worthy of his hire.

I beg to support.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want again to thank my hon. Friends who have made constructive suggestions to me and I can assure them that I shall do my best to look into those cases where there are genuine complaints.

If I may start from where my hon. Friend the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*)

stopped, I shall say that I do not want Members of this House to speak as if they were briefed by anybody to plead his cause. The Chairmen of the Boards of Customs and Inland Revenue are civil servants. They are not chairmen of statutory corporations.

The Board of Customs and Excise and the Board of Inland Revenue are quite different from statutory corporations; so I would like my hon. Friend the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) to be properly advised by his clients.

**Mr Odulana :** I would like to inform the Minister of Finance that I have no client and, believe it or not, I am speaking from the best of faiths. If the Minister of Finance says that it is only in the statutory corporations that people earn more than £3,000 I am prepared to show him from this Estimates civil servants who earn more.

What I am saying is that if we realise so much through those two Chairmen then they should be paid more. I do not know any of them. They are not my friends. I am just speaking the truth and nothing but the truth.

**Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh :** My hon. Friend the Member for Ijebu South certainly has clients than he himself could imagine because if Members discuss issues in the House in the interest of the country one can understand their temper; but Members will agree with me that from the way the Member for Ijebu South discusses this issue of cement one can understand that he either has special interests to protect or he has clients to protect.

**Mr Odulana :** I am an importer and exporter.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Good, but why did the Member for Ijebu South not say so. Why did he not say that he is here to protect the interests of his cement import business and then tell the House clearly that he is losing on his importation of cement and therefore comes to seek the support of this House to assist him to make more profits which support this House will never give to him?

Quite honestly, the first clinker factory that was set up, as my hon. Friend himself is aware, was in Port Harcourt. It was set up by a Nigerian who was trained abroad and who, when he came home, found that he could set up such a factory to give employment to people. He set it up, but the Government of

Eastern Nigeria, after some time, had to come to his aid because the duty that was charged on clinker was excessive.

The Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) should not look at the question of the factory from the point of view of what the Government can realise only but should also look at it from the point of view of the number of people who get employment from the factory and the quantity of cement produced by such a factory. If, therefore, it is a semi-finished industry, there is nothing wrong in it and it is the duty of the Government also to protect it as an industry because with all the counterfeiting that one can do in Ijebu, one cannot counterfeit the machines used in producing cement.

**Mr Odulana** : I now have to repeat what I said, that clinker mixed with gypsum is counterfeit cement because they are not paying the direct tax. The Minister also spoke about counterfeit coins, but he knows that he would not allow the counterfeit coins that we make in Ijebu to go into circulation. So he should talk less of that.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : And, what is more, my hon. Friend purposely hid the fact that apart from the ten per cent which he said we are charging on the clinker, the finished product is dutiable. The people pay extra duty on the finished cement at fifteen shillings per ton, so that this very industry is paying double duty. It pays duty first on the clinker and, when the cement is produced, it pays fifteen shillings per ton. What then does my hon. Friend want us to do? Does he want us to kill the industry? If an industry is paying two types of duty at one and the same time, hon. Members will agree with me that this is sufficient.

Again, these people are competing with others and I do not really want to know what my hon. Friend wants us to do. The people do not bring clinker for nothing; they pay for it and if my hon. Friend's business is going to be ruined, let him look for another avenue to build it up and not by falsely appealing to the sentiments of the Members of this House.

I now come to the points made by my hon. Friend the Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyarma*), a Native Authority employee from Hadejia.

**Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyarma** : On a point of order, the Minister of Finance is mispronouncing my name. My name is not

*Guyarma*. My name is Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyarma.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I am very grateful to the hon. Gentleman. His name sounds grammatical and musical too, but his speeches are never musical to the ears. I am very sorry to say this.

One can appreciate the mentality of some people if they want to tread where even angels fear to tread, but one cannot appreciate the mentality of an audit clerk in a Native Administration whose standard, judged by the standards of other Native Administrations, is very low. He knows that he has passed through the auditors' hands and instead of his trying to set his own house in order, he wants to judge the finances of the Federal Government by the finances of his Hadejia North administration. I think that for once the hon. Gentleman should get away from his Native Authority mentality and then try to reason like an hon. Member of this House.

I do not want to say more on this because of the people concerned, otherwise he knows that I know more about his N.A. and the Commission of Inquiry that went through his N.A. I would have liked to touch upon all these things about him, but I want him to be careful.

I think this is a good opportunity for me to tell this honourable House how Government money is spent. Hon. Members will find that money is appropriated Head by Head in the Estimates and the hon. Gentleman was trying to tell this House how he would like people to spend money. If money is appropriated by this honourable House under the Head, say, for the Ministry of Establishments, all I do is to issue, after this House and the Senate have passed the Estimates, a General Warrant to that Ministry to spend the money.

I do not go into the day-to-day spending of the money by the Ministries. That is not my business and I do not know how the Ministers and their Permanent Secretaries spend the money, according to how it is appropriated. So it is wrong for anybody to think that, just because I am the Minister of Finance, I am disbursing the funds of all the Ministries. I want to tell the hon. Gentleman that I do not do so. It is not my duty. I am only responsible for the finances and expenditure under the Ministry of Finance and no more.

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

I should like the Member for Hadejia North to know that I have so much work to do that I do not even bother myself interfering in other people's business, otherwise I would have gone to look into the hon. Gentleman's N.A., see how much he has spent and how much he has stolen from there. I think it is high time we told this peculiar Alhaji to be very careful about what he says in this House otherwise we will stop him from going to Mecca.

**The Ministry of Commerce and Industry** (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima) : On a point of order, I should like to inform my hon. Colleague, the Minister of Finance, that all Alhajis are honourable gentlemen, all Alhajis.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I should like to thank my hon. Colleague for that, but there is an exception to every rule. This man must be an exception to all the other Alhajis.

Now, to come to the point, I should like to say that in making all his points, the Member for Hadejia North, as a Member of the Audit Department of his N.A. is obsessed with the idea of an audit report. For instance, the hon. Gentleman read the Auditor's Report and took everthing there as gospel truth. As the Chairman has already mentioned to the House, he knows that this is not what my hon. Colleague called a two by four Government.

We are not going to allow the Auditor's Report to slip away just like that. I want to assure my hon. Friend that the Auditor's Report will be laid by me on the Table of this House before we adjourn and every point that has been made there will be replied to by me on the Floor of this House. My hon. Friend will then find to his own disappointment and dismay that the Auditor's Report was written by an over-enthusiastic, officious and ill-informed Assistant Director of Audit who himself is not the Director but, perhaps, wanted to do it in order to get to the top by hook or crook.

I shall be replying to these things in due course and the hon. Gentleman should not worry himself in thinking that there is misappropriation of funds or that people have stolen money. Of course, people do steal other people's money, and the Federal Government is no exception. No one can expect that in the whole of Nigeria people will not steal some money at one time or the other. We are doing our very best to minimise these

things and to see to it, when we find that anybody has stolen Government money, that appropriate action is taken against him and possibly convicted.

We cannot prevent people from going about stealing money. Can I stop my hon. Friend from taking his N.A.'s money?

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : On a point of order, I will appeal to the Minister of Finance to be lenient with the Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Muhammadu Gauryama*) because he cannot answer to all the points the Minister is making against him. Until he has gone to have his reply written down he cannot reply!

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : On a point of information, I want to protest very vehemently on behalf of my hon. Friend the Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Muhammadu Gauryama*) to whom the Minister of Finance has been referring. The hon. Gentleman is so honest that he will never take away the N.A.'s money.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I thank my hon. Friend very much.

Now, on the question of independence cars, I want to tell hon. Members, again as I will be replying to their remarks, that I did not sell any independence car. I bought one and I paid for it fully. The cars were sold by the Cabinet Office, and I understand that all the money had been collected. About the one the Auditor mentioned, I can assure him that we have had the answer for it and I shall come back to it.

Now and again people hear that cars are sold or cars are bought, and they think it is the Minister of Finance who is buying or selling them. I want to tell the hon. Gentleman who made the point that since I became a Minister in 1954 (when I was the Minister of Labour for two or three years), I did not take a penny advance from the Government to buy any car. I never did. I came with my two cars when I was the Minister of Labour here. So, let people stop talking nonsense about cars and other things.

I have over-heard my hon. Friend the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) asking whether I think he too has never bought a car with his own money. I want to say that if my hon. Friend has done that, I am sure he has done so with his counterfeit money from Ijebu.

**Mr Odulana :** If I have bought my car with counterfeit money, the Minister of Finance bought his with money made from selling *apetesi*.

**Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima :** What is *apetesi* ?

**The Chairman :** *Apetesi* is no official language.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I want to thank my hon. Friend the Member for Potiskum (*M. Maina Waziri*) for all that he said about our finances.

My hon. Friend, the Member for Benin West (*Mr Aghahowa*) spoke on taxation of property, but I do not know how a lawyer can talk like that. I understand that the hon. Gentleman was referring copiously to his notes when he was talking about taxation on property. I know that he has got a lot of property in Benin but if he wants to talk about tax law he has, perhaps, to look at his tax ordinance properly or we ask the Attorney-General to send him to the Law School in Lagos.

I would like to crave your indulgence to refer to the Official Report of the 31st March, 1964 in which a Member who advised some amendments under this Head had made some speech. I refer to the Member for Asaba East (*Mr E. A. Mordi*). His speech, I must say, if hon. Members will study it carefully, was written in two parts. The first part of it agrees fully, both in substance and language, with the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade's*) English. Quite frankly, if you read it carefully, you will find that the first portion of it was written by the Action Group Bureau of Publicity and was handed to him to be delivered. If you look at the bottom, the last part of it, you find that it is Mr Mordi's English.

So, here we find an hon. Member who made a speech almost against his own party and then it is written for him, perhaps, having been paid for making a very damaging statement on the Floor of this House.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban): I disagree with the hon. Minister. It was (*interruptions*).

**The Chairman :** Order! One's views about a speech being made is not a point of order.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Everything that Mr Mordi said was against him because if you read it carefully you will be shocked at what he said. Everything he said in the speech could be attributable to himself because I personally know of his record in his constituency which is stinking. He spoke about the palacial buildings elsewhere put up by people. Obviously, we must know that a teacher who built such a palace as I saw in Ubuluku, his own house, lighted with private electricity, with water system and so on, cannot come here to say some of the things he said. There are millions of people who cannot afford more than one meal in a day in his own town, and even the one meal they can afford is "not good enough for goats or sheep", to quote his own words.

These were the statements he made here and if there is any such place, I am sure it is in the Member for Asaba East's home town only. All of us here know that our people in our constituencies eat well, at least, in Nigeria. But our people in Nigeria do not eat food that is only good for goats or sheep, and I think that I speak for the House entirely. For an hon. Member to come here, after having been paid, to make such a statement on the Floor of this House is disgraceful.

Where the hon. Member is staying in his own palacial building in Ubuluku, his own school there is as wretched as ever and he is collecting money from there. He also told this House that his salary as a teacher is £2,000 plus the £1,000 he gets from here, making a total of £3,000. Yet he has never given a penny to the poor and he went to build a palacial building for himself and put electricity there.

It is only right to conclude that people are right when they say "As a man looks, so he is." (*Several hon. Members : Shame !*) Since I have sent for this hon. Gentleman about thrice this afternoon to come here, I would spare him more pains but if he will care again to come, I can assure him that I know more about him than he thinks I know. I shall tell people that this is not the place to make war cries for the release of people, and people should not give the impression that the N.C.N.C. is giving people licence to talk about the release of prisoners on the Floor of this House. It was a foolish statement and a most unfortunate one to make. If a case is in court it is *sub judice*. People cannot come here to make war cries,



[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

after bargaining to get money and then come here to ask us to release people. Let him release himself because he is in chains.

*Whereupon the Member for Owerri East (Chief D. N. Abii) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.*

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

*Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.*

£1,674,690 for Head 41.—Ministry of Finance—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 42.—BOARD OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

£887,370 for Head 42—Board of Customs and Excise—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 43.—INLAND REVENUE

£248,960 for Head 43—Inland Revenue—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

*Sitting suspended : 6 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 9.00 p.m.*

HEAD 44.—EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

*Question proposed, That £3,271,680 for Head 44—Ministry of External Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.*

**M. Albatan Yerima Balla** (Adamawa North West) : In contributing to the debate on the Ministry of External Affairs I would, first of all, like to speak on the United Nations.

When Nigeria was admitted as a member of the United Nations after our independence on the 1st of October, 1960, our Prime Minister in his address to the United Nations called for the enlargement of the Security Council. I think it is only fair that Africa with about thirty-three countries in the United Nations should be given a permanent seat on the Security Council. At the present time the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council are the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the Soviet Union, Chiang-Kai-Shek's Formosa and France. All the African countries who are members of the Organisation of African Unity are agreed that Africa should have a permanent seat on the Security Council. Our Minister of External Affairs should see to it that Africa is given a permanent seat on the Security Council.

It appears that Nigeria is not yet pulling its weight at the United Nations. Our Delegation at the United Nations have contested for one of the seats in the Security Council twice and failed. In 1962, Nigeria contested with Morocco and Nigeria was defeated. In 1963 again we tried to get into the Security Council but failed again—

**Mr N. E. Elenwa** (Ahoada West) : On a point of information, Nigeria did not contest any seat last year.

**M. Yerima Balla** : Nigeria tried to get into the Security Council last year but failed. We know the weaknesses of the Nigeria Delegation at the United Nations and we must let the Minister of External Affairs know.

The Minister of External Affairs should look into the ills of our Delegation at the United Nations. If it is the Civil Servants in the Delegation who are not doing their work well the Minister should see that they are changed in good time. If it is the politicians that always accompany the Delegation, the Minister should see that they are replaced. Nigeria being one of the big nations in Africa must be able to have a strong Delegation at the United Nations.

It is true our Prime Minister said that we are not going to dominate any country and that Nigeria has no territorial ambition but Nigeria must make its presence felt in world assemblies. Nigeria is one of the largest countries in the continent of Africa and our diplomacy should be second to none. I appreciate that we preach a policy of non-alignment but we must be dynamic.

On African unity, may I take this opportunity to congratulate the Federal Government for what it has done so far for Liberation Movements in Africa. There are Liberation Movements in Angola, Mozambique, Northern Rhodesia, Portuguese Guinea and South West Africa. The Nigerian Government has tried its best to help these Liberation Movements.

On Saturday, the Minister of External Affairs announced in this honourable House that Nigeria has accorded recognition to the Angola Provisional Government led by Mr Holden Roberto based in Leopoldville. The Minister of External Affairs should see that all the other Freedom Fighters are helped so

[M. YERIWA BALLA]

that the whole of Africa may be free from colonialism. The Organisation of African Unity through its De-colonisation Committee should see to it that the whole of Africa is free.

There were formerly three main colonial powers in Africa, Britain, France and Belgium. Now that these three colonial powers are leaving Africa they are now looking for military bases in order to perpetuate their former policies. Britain is using the Commonwealth to perpetuate her rule in her former territories and France is using the French Community to perpetuate French rule in France's former territories. Nigeria must kick against the establishment and maintenance of military bases in Africa. Hon. Members will see that the whole trouble in South East Asia is the result of military bases being established in the area. In Cambodia, Indonesia, Southern Vietnam, and Malaysia, there is trouble everyday. The whole trouble over Malaysia is being sponsored by two power blocs trying to fill the vacuum on the one hand supporting Indonesia, and by the Western Powers headed by Britain supporting Malaysia. If we do not want another South East Asia in Africa we must see to it that no more military bases are established in Africa.

When the African Heads of States meet in Cairo in June they must pass a resolution prohibiting the establishment of military bases in Africa. Military bases must disappear completely from the Continent of Africa. They should also make sure that Africa is free from any form of nuclear bomb testing.

As I said in one of my earlier speeches in this House, all African newly emergent nations should concentrate on the education and the feeding of their people. The main problem facing our Government at the moment should be the economic development of this country. We must stabilise our position at home if we want to continue to help our brothers in other parts of Africa.

There were army mutinies in the East African countries of Tanganyika, Uganda, and Kenya early this year and quite recently Tanganyika has asked for the help of Nigeria to replace the British troops that have been helping in maintaining peace in that country. The good work of our forces in the Congo has

given us good publicity and we must maintain the good work that our forces started in the Congo. Nigeria is a force to be reckoned with in the Continent of Africa and we must try and maintain this position.

On the establishment of Embassies abroad, I would say that Nigeria has been a little bit extravagant. It is true that we have copied most of our diplomatic customs from the European countries but I think we must be a bit careful in the opening of Embassies.

**The Minister of External Affairs (Dr Jaja Wachuku)** : On a point of order, I do not know on what sub-head the Member for Adamawa North West (*M. Yerima Balla*) is speaking. As far as I can see he is not speaking on any sub-head. May I know whether the hon. Member has abandoned his Amendment ?

**The Chairman** : Actually, he has not moved any Amendment.

**M. Yerima Balla** : I have not moved any Amendment. I am speaking generally on the Ministry of External Affairs.

We can understand Nigeria having Embassies in Italy, Western Germany and other big countries in Europe, but I cannot see the wisdom of Nigeria having an Embassy in Togo, another in Dahomey and another in Ghana. We have another Embassy in Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Senegal. There is no reason why we cannot appoint only about three Ambassadors to all these countries. We also have Embassies in Niger, Chad and Upper Volta. I can see no wisdom in this. I think we can have only one Embassy to look after our interests in these three countries.

Nigeria has only been independent for three years and I do not see any reason why we should waste money in opening all these Embassies. India, which has been independent for the past seventeen years has only one Ambassador accredited to Nigeria, Niger and Cameroun. We should be very careful how we spend our money opening Embassies.

I would also like to sound a note of warning on the appointment of Nigerian Ambassadors and High Commissioners to serve this country overseas. No matter what are our troubles at home, Nigeria must present a common front overseas. Whether a Nigerian comes

[M. YERIMA BALLA]

from Adamawa, Umuahia, Port Harcourt, Abeokuta or Sapele it should not stop him from being appointed as Nigeria's Ambassador overseas. Our Minister of External Affairs should take note of these points that I have made.

I will now speak on the resolutions adopted at the African Heads of State's Conference at Addis Ababa. We all know the part played by Nigeria during the last Foreign Ministers Conference in Lagos. Our Foreign Minister should see to it that all the resolutions passed at the historic Addis Ababa Conference are respected and implemented by all the African states that are members of the Organisation of African Unity. These resolutions must not only be adopted they should be implemented.

Last year, I brought a Motion to the Floor of this House that the Portuguese Ambassador in Nigeria should be expelled and the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, (*Alhaji Nuhu Bamali*) told me that what Portugal had in Nigeria was a Charge d' Affaires. It beats me that Nigeria which is one of the countries in the forefront crying aloud that Africa should condemn in unmistakable terms Portuguese atrocities in Africa could again allow Portugal to have a Charge d' Affaires in Nigeria. Why should Nigeria agree to a resolution and be the last to implement it? We should not be too slow in implementing the resolutions passed at the African Heads of State's Conferences.

Nigeria is a populous country, and she must lead all the other nations of Africa. She should not be the last to make suggestions when important things are being discussed. Our External Affairs Ministry must ensure this.

Let me now deal with the question of policy in the Ministry of External Affairs. We must bear in mind that once the Ministry of External Affairs is paralysed, the whole nation will also be paralysed. Similarly, if the Ministry gets on well and is happy, the whole nation will be happy too. When the Foreign Minister is active, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry will also be active, and all the clerks and officers under the Permanent Secretary will also be active. But when the Minister is weak, the whole Ministry must be weak also. I hope the Minister of External Affairs will bear these points in mind.

There is another point I must mention. We Members of the Parliament are the eyes and the ears of the people. We are the representatives of the people. I therefore do not see any reason why we Members of the Parliament should not be well represented on any delegation either to Addis Ababa or anywhere. The Minister of External Affairs is here now, and I want him to note that we Members of the Parliament can nullify any decisions of any conference if we are not well represented. We do not want this bad practice to continue.

The main reason why I insist that Members should be well represented is that whenever it is necessary, we would be able to defend the Government, and we would be up to date in such matters. The Minister of External Affairs must note this very carefully.

One other topic I want to touch is the policy of non-alignment. This policy must be pursued positively. When the Minister of External Affairs was first appointed, he promised to change the then policy in order to suit our country. He promised that he would not follow the imperialists' methods and—

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh): The Minister says he cannot understand the speech. If the Minister of External Affairs cannot understand the simple English of the Member for Adamawa North West (*M. Balla*), then he should go back and collect his school fees from his teachers.

**Dr Jaja Wachuku**: The Member is speaking Chinese.

**The Chairman**: As Minister of External Affairs, the Minister should understand Chinese. (*Laughter*).

**M. Yerima Balla**: I wish to give one example in support of my view. If we take up one of the passports issued in this country today, it is easily noticeable that we still maintain our colonial mentality. People are free to go to all the NATO countries, but they are not free to go to other countries. If we say we are free, we must act as such. We are a country of fifty-five million people, and yet we still allow colonial powers to dictate terms to us. This is very shameful.

When our Minister of External Affairs was in Moscow, he must have come across many students who have no passports. These students could become Members of this Parliament tomorrow.

I hear some Members say that these students did not go through the proper channel, but I am sure they could not have been given their passports, even if they had applied officially. We did not give them passports, and I think this is very bad. These students had to go through Ghana.

The Publicity Section of the Ministry of External Affairs is very badly organised. It is better to organise that section properly. People of other countries must be properly made aware of the existence of Nigeria and the wrong impressions they have been given by our Colonial masters must be corrected through well organised publicity media. Every corner of the world must be correctly educated about Nigeria and her peoples. If this is done, I am sure the prestige of Nigeria must be enhanced, and the result will be very pleasing to all of us.

I beg to support.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi) : Recent events have shown that Nigeria has certainly been leading other African nations and we are extremely happy about this. We have, therefore, to express our satisfaction to the entire members of the Ministry of External Affairs, from the man at the top to the most junior messenger, for what they have done during the past twelve months.

However, I have been wondering if the Minister of External Affairs would not consider it appropriate to accept the appointment of a purely advisory body as that of Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs. Such a committee will be useful to the Minister as an individual and to his Ministry as a whole.

Other advanced countries have such committees and I am sure that the Committees have been doing the countries a lot of good. As the functions of the Committee are going to be purely advisory, I think it would hardly be rejected by a very progressive and very dynamic Minister like Dr Jaja Wachuku.

I hope that this year, he will look into this very good suggestion and do something about it. We have been demanding year after year on the Floor of this House that such a Committee be set up because it will do a lot of good to this country.

Another subject I would like to talk upon is the way and manner in which things are handled at the United Nations. One would expect to see the Addis Ababa spirit demon-

strated at the United Nations. It may be that I am wrong in expecting this ; from what I have seen and from my personal experience however, I did not see the spirit of oneness, so conspicuous at Addis Ababa, displayed at the United Nations.

For example, it could be easily noticed that when an issue is taken up, an African group or an Afro-Asian group is usually called upon to handle or process out a line of action or a resolution on that particular issue but invariably, because of the many groups within the same Organisation of African Unity, it is absolutely impossible to arrive at an acceptable resolution without some bitterness in some quarters and without some quarrels, though verbal.

I think also that on a question like that of Southern Rhodesia, there should be an agreement amongst the African Nations as to what line of action should be followed at the United Nations, long before the issue is taken up at the United Nations. So that, a concerted action or an action jointly approved of by the entire members of the Organisation of African Unity should be taken.

Unfortunately, this is not what happens at the United Nations. I am asking the Minister of External Affairs to look into this matter and consult his colleagues so that the situation might be improved. If possible, I would even wish to go to the extent of suggesting the abolition of small political unions within the Organisation of African Unity.

It is all well if such groupings are concerned with economic or technical matters but certainly from what we have been hearing and from the events which have been taking place, there are still some political groupings which in my opinion, make it almost difficult for all the members of the Organisation of African Unity to come together politically.

It is pleasing too to hear some days ago, the Minister of External Affairs tell this honourable House that the Angolan Provisional Government in exile headed by Holden Roberto has been recognised by the Government of Nigeria. I say this is welcomed because at the moment we cannot but recognise such a Government. In my opinion, it is even too late, it is much overdue for us to recognise this Government because I have unfortunately experienced an embarrassment at the United Nations on this issue.

[MR OGBALU]

I therefore appeal to the Minister of External Affairs to use his well-known diplomacy and his talent to see that the Secretariat is sited in Nigeria. This is not a selfish ambition on the part of Nigeria, but I think that it will make for the progress and continued growth of the Organisation. It will surely be in the interest of the Organisation if the Secretariat is sited in Nigeria.

Again, I want to say that the Minister has carried out the job assigned to him very efficiently. I do not share the opinion expressed by some hon. Members of this House that the Minister has in any way fallen short of expectation in the performance of his duty.

Foreign policy is a cabinet secret, and that being the case, even though the Foreign Minister has to consult with his Colleagues in the cabinet, he has to take on the spot decisions sometimes, having little or no time to consult with his own men.

I believe that the question of South Africa's continued membership of the United Nations or that of other world Organisations is one on which the Federal Cabinet has taken a stand. I therefore think that the Minister has gone abroad and has projected the image of Nigeria, bearing in mind the principle of collective responsibility. I do not see why any Member of this honourable House should stand up to put the blame on the shoulders of the Minister of External Affairs.

**Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa** (Benin West) : On a point of information, we all appreciate in this House that the Minister of External Affairs is a very able and competent man who is capable of fighting his own battle. Nobody expects the Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) to hold the Minister's brief.

**Mr Ogbalu** : I can hear some Members saying that I am wasting my time. I am not wasting any time. I have the Floor now, and anybody who raises an unnecessary point of order is the one wasting the time of the House and making himself a bad specimen.

I was trying to discuss the point of representation overseas which somebody has already mentioned. I feel that the question of foreign affairs is something which should be left in the hands of qualified people, and it is only in this particular field that every part of this Federa-

tion at least acknowledges the fact that we want the best people who are trained in diplomacy and who have requisite qualification to represent us abroad.

We can afford to have ethnic representations within this country, but external matters should be seen from the Nigerian perspective; they are matters which should be handled by the Federal Government alone.

Many Members have spoken on the necessity for Nigeria to project her image abroad as one country, united in all forms. I want to say that if we show our ethnic feelings in our embassies and foreign offices then, certainly, we shall be dragging the name of this country into the mud.

I have to mention one other very important point, even though this may be a personal matter. This is a case of two people, Messrs Iyesoba and Okafor, who are members of my constituency and who were residents of the Federal Republic of Camerouns. These two gentlemen were sometime ago ordered to leave the Cameroun Republic without allowing them to take any of their valuable properties with them and without any adequate compensation paid to them.

We approached the Minister to take the matter up with the Government of the Republic so that these people could be adequately compensated, but up till this present moment nothing has been heard. I hope that when the Minister begins to reply to the points raised by Members he will seize the opportunity to explain what action he has taken in order to make sure that the properties that these people left behind in the Camerouns are paid for.

Another point I want to raise is one which has already been raised by one of the Members who have spoken before me. I would however like to emphasise the point, and that is the question of the establishment of diplomatic relationship with Israel.

We cannot over emphasise our desire to have diplomatic representation in Israel. When the Minister of Finance was giving his report he gave out quite a large sum of money, quite a big figure, depicting the amount which Israel had contributed towards our Development Programme. Some other countries who have contributed nothing to our Development Pro-

gramme have been privileged to establish diplomatic relations with us. I do not see why there should be any discrimination against that country, if we really mean that we are adhering to our policy of non-alignment.

I am asking the Minister to take this matter very seriously; it is the opinion of the majority of Members in this House that diplomatic relations should be established with Israel. I know in this connection too, that Japan from whom we have imported much—and that has contributed towards our adverse balance of payment in this country—is also in the same position.

The difficulty is to convince the Japanese Government and businessmen that there are some materials they could in turn import from Nigeria. I think that the real difficulty lies in the fact that Nigeria, having no representative in that country, is unable to make the people there know what they can get from us. If we established an embassy there we would be in a position to tell them what we have here, so that Japanese businessmen will take an interest in this country and buy from us, and thus help improve our adverse balance of payment.

The economic recovery of Japan after the Second World War is something to be taken into serious consideration in determining the part which Japan can play in contributing towards our economic growth. But unless a closer relationship is established with that country, we will always find our trade with her unstable. We shall find it difficult to settle our balance of trade with her.

We know that most Japanese goods are cheaply produced and therefore they compare very favourably with what can be got in any other country.

Finally I want to associate myself with the encomiums already given to the External Affairs Minister. When the imperialists were leaving this country, they had expected that there would be a sort of power vacuum and that there would be a struggle either between the West and the East as to who will fill the vacuum that had been created.

But by the way in which the External Affairs Minister has handled the affairs connected with African countries, whether dependent or independent, this power vacuum

has been more or less filled and Nigeria is gradually becoming the most important and respected country in this continent. Many of the decisions which the Minister has taken have proved him right and have silenced his critics in many respects.

It is true that sometimes we want straightforward and spontaneous reaction when certain events take place in Africa. But I think the calmness, equanimity, singleness of mind, resolution and the determination of the Minister has earned Nigeria a world-wide personality throughout the whole globe.

**The Minister of External Affairs (Dr Jaja Wachuku)**: I want to express my appreciation of the various remarks that have been made by various Members in appreciation of the work that has been done during the previous financial year by my Ministry.

A number of points have been made but I think that Members will agree with me that the Member for Adamawa North West (*M. Albatan Yerima Balla*) who spoke for most of the time was so inaudible that it was difficult to know what he said. However, the reporters are very good in recording what anybody says and I am sure it will be easy to read it in the report.

He said so much about our non-alignment policy. He feels that we are not carrying it out as we should and expects us to open embassies everywhere.

As I said before on the Floor of this House, it is not possible for us to open embassies everywhere. We cannot afford it. Even if we have the money, we have not got the personnel. We need trained personnel otherwise we shall run into trouble.

If we establish embassies without having the trained personnel, the prestige we already have will be lost in a day. It is better for us to go slowly and achieve our objective than to hurry and thereby create a false image. I can assure this House that all the points made by Members will be considered very carefully and that those that will help the Ministry or the Government in modifying or implementing our policies will be taken into serious consideration.

I know Members have harped on this question of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. We have made it quite clear on the Floor of this House that it is not in the interest

[DR JAJA WACHUKU]

of the country that the conduct of Foreign Affairs should be done on the Floor of the House. It is impossible, inconvenient and will not make for careful and judicious decision, indeed it will be very expensive.

Members want to economise and I think we will be economising the allowances and all sorts of things that will come from it. It may even lead to confusion. At any rate constitution changes and a country changes as it grows. If the time comes and this Government or our next Government of this country feels that the time is ripe for such a procedure, I am sure that our country will be able to decide accordingly. But at this present moment when we are in our formative period, it will only lead to serious confusion and lack of sense of direction and great inexactitude in so many lines of action.

We prefer to leave the conduct of Foreign Affairs as it is at the moment, in the hands of the Cabinet.

The Member for Kaga Marghi (*Shettima Ali Monguno*) commented on the necessity for the African countries to have a joint policy on Rhodesia. I can assure this House that our Government and this country will not be favourably disposed towards any attempt to transfer power to a minority population in Southern Rhodesia particularly when it comes to matters of independence.

I can assure this House that our views on this matter are well known in the quarters that matter, and from the present position I do not think that somebody would be so foolhardy as to embark on such dangerous procedure. I can make it clear to you that there is no desire on the part of either this Government or any government that I know at the moment to hand over such powers as to give independence to a minority section of Southern Rhodesia. Attempt may be made by the minority to declare independence, but so far as I know, no government that I have discussed with, or our own Government, is in any way inclined to have Southern Rhodesia independent under a minority group of persons.

I want to express my appreciation and the appreciation of the Government for the way and manner this House has received the act of the Government in recognising the Provisional Government of Angola-in-Exile. Members have commented that we have been

slow in giving our recognition; but it is better to be judicious and careful and do the thing at the right time when it will be effective, decisive and conclusive, than to rush too quickly and then regret for getting in when we should not get in. We have followed this policy, and I can assure this House that those directly concerned know, as I have already said here, that we are second to none in our assistance and support to the Provisional Government of Angola-in-Exile in all fields. Up till now the Government of this great Republic enjoys the full confidence of the nationalist leaders in Angola, and they see in Nigeria as a great succour and a great supporter in their efforts for national liberation.

Hon. Members have commented on the question of Information Officers and the conflict between the Ministries of External Affairs and Information. As far as matters stand now, there has been understanding. I think when Members made their comments they were commenting on past practice when Information Officers were seconded to the Ministry of External Affairs from the Ministry of Information. At the moment the position is not exactly the same. Of course, where we have not got the officers under the present scheme, naturally, we would not like to have a vacuum created. Somebody who had been there continues to be there.

The present position now is that the Ministry of External Affairs draws its Information Officers, where possible, from the Ministry of Information if they can provide the people; and once such officers get into the Ministry of External Affairs they cease to be adjuncts of the Ministry of Information. We put them through the training, according to the processes, and if they prove to be competent and they qualify, they are absorbed and they become part and parcel of the Ministry of External Affairs. They enjoy all privileges as any other officer of the External Affairs Ministry under the control of a High Commissioner, where there is a High Commission, or an Ambassador anywhere. The Ministry of Information has no authority to interfere with the officers while they are with us.

**The Minister of Information** (Mr T. O. S. Benson): On a point of order, I would like the Minister of External Affairs to tell the House the truth and the whole truth, because he does not recruit officers. He is not telling us the truth.

**Dr Jaja Wachuku :** I used an English word, I did not use any vernacular language. I said we *draw* officers from the Ministry of Information, and if the Minister of Information understands the English word *draw* he will know that I was speaking the truth.

Hon. Members should rest assured that all such officers now enjoy all the privileges that all other officers serving in the Foreign Service of Nigeria do enjoy.

I agree with the Member for Kaga Marghi (*Shetima Ali Monguno*) on this question of student politicians who will devote more attention to politics they do not understand than doing their studies. Personally I did politics as a student, but not this kind of thing that students do these days. We did student politics based on being aware of what is going on. In the debating societies we had it out amongst ourselves, but not dabbling in practical politics with the people at home.

I hear a Member say that I attended the Pan African Conference during my student days. Yes, I did. I had completed my university course, had my degree and was a practising lawyer. I was called to the bar and was already working when I attended that conference, so that I was not in that category at all.

I think Members of this House will be helpful to students if those who have friends and relations try to advise them to concentrate in acquiring much knowledge, and as much as possible being aware of what is going on in their country and keeping their powder dry, so that when they come home they can participate effectively.

I want to make this clear once more to this House. Hon. Members have been making great fuss about the admission of China into the United Nations. It is not a matter for Nigeria to refuse to admit or to agree to admit China to the United Nations. The practice always is that the country which wants to be a member of that world assembly sends to say that it wants to be a member, and then it is sponsored by other members. In fact, the Security Council goes through the whole process and agrees. But if a member of the Council vetoes the decision, the country seeking admission does not come in. But once the Security Council has approved your application, it is sent to the General Assembly and formally you are admitted. You are then

informed that your application has been considered and approved and that on such and such a date you will be admitted. On the appointed day the country with her delegation will go to the General Assembly at the appropriate time. The President will call on the leader of the delegation; the proposers will make speeches sponsoring the country, and the leader of the delegation will then go to the rostrum to reply. He then accepts the decision and goes to occupy the seat allocated to the country.

Now, in the case of China, the difference is that the Republic of China was one of the original founders of the United Nations. There was a civil war between the two factions; one of them defeated the other and drove the former government of the Republic of China out of the Mainland, and occupied the whole of the Mainland.

The Nigerian Government recognises both *de facto* and *de jure* the existence of the People's Republic of China as the government responsible for China. It is not for this Government to tell them to come and claim whatever right they have got. I want to say here that the People's Republic of China have never come to the United Nations to claim their seat and then Nigeria saying that they should not claim it. If they do not want their seat, I do not see the reason why we should split our heads over someone who says he has a right and never wants to claim it.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East):** Is not the Minister missing the point? Is not the point this that no self-respecting country will make an application in circumstances where it knows that its application will be vetoed? The point that Members are making is that if this country's attitude were to join up with the other countries of the United Nations by putting forth pressure so that a favourable atmosphere is created for China to be able to make its application without running the indignity of being refused, it will help Nigeria and the United Nations. I think that is the point.

**Dr Jaja Wachuku :** That situation does not arise at all. As I said here, the point that has always come up in the United Nations is that the Soviet Union brings a resolution to say that as a condition for China taking its seat in the United Nations, the Formosa Government of



[DR WACHUKU]

China should be expelled, knowing full well that the Republic of China is already a member in the security council with veto power. That is what happens.

I would like to make it quite clear that if it is a question of these two claimants to one throne then it is a matter for the Credentials Committee of the United Nations to decide who should be allowed to occupy the seat, and not for Nigeria. Nigeria is only one country with one vote. Therefore, Members should not come here to take the responsibility which squarely rests on the shoulders of China. I think it is a mistake on the part of hon. Members to do so. After all, we have already recognised China.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : On a point of order, is the Minister not aware that why Nigeria is hesitating to take up the Chinese issue in the United Nations is because America is not interested in getting China admitted? These big powers are very afraid to allow China to be admitted into the United Nations and as a result, China with 650,000,000 people is kept out of the United Nations. Is it not true that the United Nations is now a rubber stamp and that the United States and United Kingdom or the NATO powers do dictate the affairs of the United Nations? If so, what is the Minister of External Affairs who is a nationalist, as we all know him to be, doing there to show our disapproval of the iniquities of these big powers?

**Dr Jaja Wachuku** : I take it that the hon. Gentleman has been following the various statements and games of the big powers and knows exactly what their policies are; and if the hon. Member is aware of the policy of this country—that we should stand by the truth, it does not matter where it goes—I can assure him that (certainly it may be when I cease to be the Minister of External Affairs) the United States, Britain or anybody does not affect my line of action when I go to the United Nations. (Applause.) I follow the Nigerian policy, and where there is doubt, I think is in the best interest of Nigeria irrespective of who is there. Anybody who has been there will tell hon. Members that what I have said now is the position. I am not being governed by American or British or Russian views. I am governed by what is in the best interest of Nigeria according to my light, as I understand it, and as it is consistent with our policy.

I will agree with hon. Members that if it were possible for the Regional Governments to agree that their Agents-General should come under one roof, as two Regions had once agreed before with the High Commissioner, well it will be a very great thing. And if they themselves should agree that they should become Deputy Commissioners, I think we will all be happy. The Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) has said earlier that when the Agent-General for Western Nigeria arrived in London, the Agent-General said that the premises he was to occupy should really be occupied by the High Commissioner. My only question is: Is the Western Nigeria Government prepared to surrender that building to the Federal Government? I am perfectly certain that if they are prepared to surrender that house to us, I will gladly receive it and then make the appropriate adjustment to accommodate the Agent-General or Deputy High Commissioner.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : On a point of order, I just want to enlighten the Minister. If everything is all right with the Regions, there is no reason why the High Commissioner should not occupy the place. I can assure hon. Members that what the Agent-General, Prince Odubanjo, advocated was that if we come together, then the High Commissioner, Alhaji Abdulmaliki, should live there.

**Dr Jaja Wachuku** : I am very happy to know that, but I am a realist and I would like to see things done and not only said. If that is the real proposition, I think we would happily welcome it. If the proposal is made to the Ministry of External Affairs, I will certainly take it up with the Cabinet and I am sure the Cabinet will welcome it.

I hear an hon. Member say that we did not first explore the possibility of getting the premises. Well, the initiative must come from the owner of the premises and not from my Ministry.

Also a Member has said that we are not talking about premises, but office. Yes, we are talking of premises, office buildings and everything around. They will decide it for themselves. I would not like to fish in troubled waters.

It has been suggested that because we have not opened an Embassy in Israel we are not following our policy of non-alignment. That would not be correct. If we have refused Israel opening an Embassy in Nigeria, then hon. Members can rightly accuse us of that. I want to make it quite clear that this country does not take part in Israel-Arab dispute. We are not part of that dispute; we were not independent when they started it. There is no intention to get ourselves involved in their dispute, and so the Federal Government accepted the exchange of Ambassadors with any country that wants to open an Embassy here. We have always put a reservation clause that, that does not bind us to say that as soon as a foreign country opens an Embassy here, we must open in their country too. We must take our time and examine our resources, and when we feel that we are in a position to do so, we do that. We cannot put ourselves in a position where we shall have no room for manoeuvres.

I would like to make it clear that the fact that Israel opened an embassy here is an indication that we work consistently with our policy of non-alignment. We are not neutral. But as I said before, this is always before my mind's eye, so that as soon as it is appropriate, I will certainly put the proposal to the Government for the purpose of seeing that an Embassy is opened in Israel. We shall examine it. We have a sympathetic understanding of the whole question.

I have already given an indication about Southern Rhodesia. I want to assure this House that I know of no plan to surrender Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland to South Africa. Indeed these three High Commission Territories present very delicate question which sometimes hon. Members, if they hear certain statements which are made about them, may feel alarmed. But if hon. Members study the geography of these three territories and their economic circumstances, they will find that they occupy a very delicate position. I can assure hon. Members that as this country is a member of the Committee of Nine, we will do everything possible within our power to see to it that these territories do not fall prey to South Africa. As long as we can make it possible for them to be outside the ambit of South Africa, we will do so, having

full cognisance of the fact that we are not in a position to do everything that we wish to do for these territories due to our circumstances.

The Member for Lowland East (*Mr Lar*) mentioned that the expenditure of £5,000 for rent and maintenance of buildings is too expensive. I do not know, but I beg to differ with his views in this connection. With regard to renting of buildings which touches on reciprocity, I must confess that we are in an unfortunate position because the policy of Nigeria has been very liberal. We give land at very, very excellent terms as evidence of our sincerity, friendliness, and so on.

These policies were in existence before I became Minister of Foreign Affairs and a lot of them were done by Mr Stallard when he was here. There is nothing we can do about this. When we go to these other countries we find it very difficult even to find suitable houses to rent—not a question of paying for them. To get land too is difficult.

Another point is this. Sometimes in this our country, one moment we blow hot, the next time we blow cold. I will give an example of that. In New York, United States of America, before I took over, the Ministry acquired a very important area of about sixteen acres with the building and enough land to be able to accommodate quite a number of our people. The other day, I read a long article in the *West African Pilot* by one Mrs Cartwright. (Apparently, somebody hired her to write all sorts of terrible things about us just because some people wanted us to sell the property.) Some people think that it is not convenient for them, and yet we know that this site is one of the best sites we can get. This site is intended to be developed. If we develop it, it will save us a lot of money, and that is exactly what Members are advocating. They said it was inconvenient and therefore we must sell, but we said we were not going to do that.

I hear one Member say that I should sell it. This will certainly not be sold while I am holding this office. I will sell nothing.

If we develop at the price we bought the property and later on we decide to sell, I am sure we can sell that place at so many times the price for which we bought it.

[DR WACHUKU]

I am not a trader as claimed by one Member. I am a professional lawyer. I can assure Members that wherever it is possible for us to obtain land and build, it is the policy of the Government and the Ministry to do so.

Some Members want us to open Embassy everywhere. If we are going to open Embassy everywhere, we must get whatever is given to us. It is not within our competence to dictate to the home government or the host government what it should do. Sometimes those governments want to have foreign currency. When you ask them for assistance, you may find that the area of the property they will introduce to you may be a very expensive one. Being a new—

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : On a point of order, I want to ask the Minister whether it is not true that if we give a foreign country so many acres of land, that foreign country should in turn give us exactly the same number of acres of land?

**Dr Jaja Wachuku** : Morally you would expect that, but legally they are not bound to. Having given them first, they have got it. If we had not allocated any place to them and they applied and we applied, we would be in a position to bargain—a matter of reciprocity. But having given them and they having got it, it would not be decent to get it back from them. Naturally, we do point out to them that we have done this for them and that they should be able to do the same thing for us. But you can only do it to a limit. We have succeeded in some places in having similar area given to us.

I want to point out that there is no Consulate in Dublin. We have an Embassy in Dublin but Consulate in Liverpool. Dublin is the capital of the Republic of Ireland, which is not part of the Commonwealth. We do have *Charge d'affaires* there and the Ambassador to Eire is the High Commissioner to the United Kingdom who is also the Ambassador to Belgium. It is multiple accreditation that enables us to save some money.

The Member for Lowland East (*Mr Lar*) said something about our attitude to freedom fighters and he also mentioned that Radio Ghana was saying that Nigeria jailed freedom fighters. As the Deputy Speaker has rightly said, we do not know exactly whether they are fighting either for freedom or against freedom. Some people may say that they are

freedom fighters and you suddenly discover—I do not say all of them—that some of them are agents of some others and the method they use in fighting for their freedom may be inimical to the interest of their country. Therefore, you must be extremely judicious and be selective with regard to those you give assistance. I can assure Members that the genuine freedom fighters that we know—and we know quite a lot of them—have no complaints. But when you have the spurious ones, they float around and naturally, we show them the way.

The Organisation of African Unity has established a Committee of Nine with funds to take care of freedom fighters. When you have such people, the best thing is to direct them to Dar-es-Salaam.

One Member has just mentioned the name of Mr Ikoku. From the point of view of other people, he wrote a pamphlet saying that he was a freedom fighter. So in that case, I do not think the Member for Lowland East (*Mr Lar*) wants us to give assistance to Mr Ikoku as a freedom fighter?

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : On a point of order, I made it clear on the Floor of this House—

**Mr Chairman** : Order. Under Standing Orders, only one Member stands at a time.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : On a point of order, the Minister said that in Brussels, Eire, and United Kingdom he had multiple accreditation in order to save money. Why should we not have it in Dahomey, Ghana, Niger and Chad?

**Dr Jaja Wachuku** : Surely the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) will agree that for the purpose of African Unity, the closer the link is the more effective the unity will be.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : On a point of order, I want to make it clear that I have never advocated for freedom fighters who carry on subversive activities against constituted authorities, such as our Mr Ikoku. Mr Ikoku has never been a freedom fighter. I am advocating for the genuine freedom fighters.

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu) : On a point of order, we are quite satisfied with the explanation of the Minister. We would like to go to the next Head as the time is going.

**Dr Jaja Wachuku** : Members have raised points and I am dealing with them.

House of Representatives Debates

1833

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

6 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1834

With regard to the question of appointment of Ambassadors, the Member for Lowland East (*Mr Lar*) wanted this to be—

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East) : On a point of order, may I ask the Minister to tell the House what countries in which we have representation have been generous enough to give us land to build quarters for our foreign servicemen ?

**Dr Jaja Wachuku** : I am not prepared to answer this question now because I would not like to give Members half information. If the hon. Member would give me notice of this question, I should be able to answer it on Thursday during question time. I am sure, by that time, I shall be able to give you full and accurate information.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : Is the Minister prepared to tell this House that such a mistake of giving pieces of land to foreigners will not happen again ?

**Dr Jaja Wachuku** : I cannot give my hon. Friend such a guarantee because every case must be examined on its merit. Actually the Government of this country is competent enough to know what to do under any particular circumstance. Besides, I am not the Minister of Lagos Affairs.

The Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) mentioned something about our relations with Ghana and the possible federation which was advocated between Nigeria, Togo and Dahomey. I think those matters do not require any comment. But he mentioned one other matter—the necessity for siting the Secretariat of the O.A.U. here in Nigeria—and I shall make some comments on this.

I wish to assure him that we are of the same turn of mind and consequently, Nigeria has insisted that before a decision is taken on matters of this nature, consistent with the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity which says, that all States are entitled to equality of rights and duties, we should agree on criteria ; once we agree on the criteria, any State that qualifies, whether it is the biggest or the smallest, the Secretariat will be sited in such country.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : On a point of order, the Minister of External Affairs has explained everything satisfactorily, and I move, That the question be now put.

**Dr Jaja Wachuku** : This point is important and I want to explain it so that it will go on record.

On the question of siting the Secretariat—

**The Chairman** : I think, so far, it would appear that the Minister has almost exhausted his time. But I take into account the fact that he has been interrupted a great deal. The Minister should, therefore, quickly wind up.

**Dr Jaja Wachuku** : On the question of siting the Secretariat, the position now is that the matter is not finally determined. Our stand is on criteria, but it would go to the Assembly of Heads of State. The stand of our Government, which has been approved by the Prime Minister, has been communicated to some Heads of State.

When the matter goes to the Assembly of Heads of State, the decision will be taken there as to where the Secretariat should be sited.

I can assure hon. Members that everything that could be done to see to it that we stand as good a chance as any other country when it comes to the siting of the Secretariat has been done by me in the Council.

**The Minister of Information** (Mr T. O. S. Benson) : On a point of Order—

**Dr Jaja Wachuku** : I wish this semi-illiterate Minister would not interfere with me.

**The Chairman** : Order ! If the Ministerial Bench will not have the courtesy of allowing the Chair to control the meeting, we might as well adjourn for the night.

I think the last expression used by the Minister of External Affairs is a rather unfortunate way of referring to a colleague. May I please appeal to the Minister of External Affairs to kindly withdraw the expression.

**Dr Jaja Wachuku** : I unhesitatingly withdraw the remarks. The only proviso that I see here is that the Cabinet Minister himself should know that it is not part of his duty to interrupt another Member of the Cabinet.

[CHIEF ABII]

I have an example of it this week. A very healthy pregnant woman went to one of the hospitals here and remained there for fourteen good days and yet, she died without any doctor trying to save her life or that of her child. It is a waste of our money and time to come here and continue to vote plenty of money for health services in Lagos if such money is not properly used. I am saying that the Doctors and the rest of them are not giving the people the services they need and even when the women go there and ask for the medicine they do not get the medicine. There is no care for these women and I humbly say, therefore, that if it is possible to ask the Government of this Federal Republic of Nigeria to take away this money, I would have asked them to refuse to give the Ministry of Health this money. But since the Minister is representing this Government, I would humbly implore him to look into this matter seriously himself. He should find out why the doctors are not serving the people.

The people have not enough money to go to private doctors and, since the Minister is a doctor himself, let him go into this matter with all seriousness and see that the money we vote for his Ministry is put into proper services for the people.

I beg to support.

**The Chairman :** Mallam Muhammadu Ningi.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : On a point of order, I filed a Motion to reduce this Head by £1,000 as an Amendment and I have not been called. According to Standing Orders, I think I should be called to move my Motion to have this Head reduced by £1,000.

**The Chairman :** Already, the hon. Gentleman is moving to have a right of speech, but he is not the only Member moving Amendments.

**M. Muhammed Ningi** (Bauchi North West) : In supporting this Head I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Health to an important matter and that is that although health is a Regional matter, even so I should like to appeal to the Minister to urge the Regional Governments to check up the irregularities that are now going on in each general hospital. Several parts—

**The Chairman :** Order. The money being

voted here is money for expenditure for health in Lagos and I do not think there is any provision for the Minister acting as a conduit pipe.

**M. Muhammed Ningi :** I am saying this because the irregularities to which I am referring—

**The Chairman :** Order ! The hon. Gentleman cannot say it.

**Chief M. A. Majekodunmi :** Mr Chairman, first of all, I would like to thank my Friend the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) for the very kind things he said about the Ministry of Health. I want to assure the House that—

**Dr Okeke :** On a point of Order, I thought that we were gaining time and there is no need to rush. The Minister should wait for us to make our points and then he can reply.

**The Chairman :** This is Committee stage ; that the Minister is now speaking does not by itself lead to definite conclusions.

**M. Muhammed Ningi :** On a point of order, I said although health is a Regional matter, I appeal to the Regional Governments through the Federal Government so as to (*Interruptions*) Mr Chairman, I think you will allow me to finish my speech.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health** (M. Hamza Gombe) : It appears Members do not know what is the meaning of point of order. Mr Chairman, you have already ruled against what the Member for Bauchi North West (*M. Muhammed Ningi*) was saying and he continues to deny the Chair. I cannot understand that.

**The Chairman :** Has the hon. Gentleman anything to add to what he was saying ?

**M. Muhammed Ningi :** Yes, Sir. If a patient is admitted into the hospital—

**The Chairman :** Order, order. It is now twelve midnight and I am bound to report progress and ask leave to sit again.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Committee report progress—to sit again, Tomorrow.*

*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 two minutes past twelve midnight.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 7th April, 1964

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

FINANCE

Alcoholic Drinks

O.134. Mr R. N. Muojeke asked the Minister of Finance, if in view of our stage of economic development, he intends to introduce a comprehensive and up-to-date legislation regulating the manufacture in Nigeria of gin, whisky, spirits and wine.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Prince A. Lamuye): Yes. The Minister would like to draw the hon. Member's attention to the Excise (Distillation of Spirits) Bill, which received its First Reading in this House last Wednesday.

Ex-enemy Property

O.497. Chief D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Finance, whether there was any ex-enemy property still undisposed in Nigeria in February 1964.

Prince Lamuye: Three ex-enemy properties remained undisposed on 29th February, 1964. Further information regarding this was contained in the Minister's reply to Question No. O.208.

Smuggling

O.498. Chief D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Finance, whether smuggling has now been eliminated at Idiroko and Port Harcourt.

Prince Lamuye: No. It is unlikely that smuggling will ever be completely eliminated, because in this battle of wits as soon as the Preventive Officers defeat one method the smugglers devise new means of evading Customs duties. However, the amount of

smuggling has been considerably reduced by the unremitting efforts of the Customs Preventive Service.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North): In view of the recurrent expenditure on smuggling and the fact that we know that Fernando Po is the base for smuggling into this country, will the Minister of Finance examine the possibility of acquiring the Island on behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria?

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Frankly, I have always thought of my hon. Friend as my economic adviser and not my acquisition adviser!

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): I would rather put my question this way — instead of fighting smuggling why do we not have improved trade with Fernando Po so that Nigerians will trade freely with the Islanders rather than trade through smuggling?

Chief Okotie-Eboh: That is a very good suggestion and I think I have made a statement on the Floor of this House that I have personally visited Fernando Po and put up proposals for a trade agreement with them with a view to eliminating smuggling but they are not forthcoming. As the hon. Member himself knows as one of the best friends of the smugglers, smuggling is perhaps more profitable for those concerned than a trade agreement. But I can assure my hon. Friend that this matter is still being seriously and vigorously pursued by me.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban): I would like the Minister to realise that as long as duties on imported goods into Nigeria continue to mount very high, smuggling must always continue. If the Minister wants to check smuggling what he should do is to see that imported goods in this country are cheap. For example, cigarettes from Fernando Po are very cheap.

Aerial Anti-Smuggling Campaign

O.614. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa asked the Minister of Finance, how far the use of helicopters in tracking down smugglers has been successful.

Prince Lamuye: The Board of Customs and Excise has not used helicopters for anti-smuggling duties. The question of their success does not therefore arise.

**West African Currency**

**O.615. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** asked the Minister of Finance, what is the economic effect on this country of the withdrawal of the West African Currency; and whether any individual or group suffered any loss as a result of the operation.

**Prince Lamuye** : The economic effect of the withdrawal of the West African Currency is that Nigeria, by introducing her own currency, is able to have full control over its monetary affairs, is responsible for the good name and value of her own money and is thereby able to plan and carry out monetary policies which are considered best for the country.

As regards the second part of the question, the Minister is happy to say that no individual or group who used the proper channels of exchange suffered any loss as a result of the operation since the exchange was done at par and was extended for a period of over three years from 1st July, 1959, thus giving everybody ample opportunity of exchanging their old currency for the new without loss.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East) : Will the Parliamentary Secretary please let us know whether it was possible for money to pass from one country to the other unrestricted when there was a West African Currency Board?

**Prince Lamuye** : Yes, Sir.

**Uniform Tax Law**

**O.616. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** asked the Minister of Finance, if he will state what efforts he has made so far to have uniform Income Tax Law throughout the Federation; and what measure of success he has achieved.

**Prince Lamuye** : The Minister is fully aware that there would be advantage in having uniform rates of personal income tax throughout the Republic, and is constantly endeavouring to promote such uniformity. But the difficulties must not be minimised. The Constitution empowers Parliament to legislate only to secure uniform principles of personal taxation and for the avoidance of double taxation; this Parliament has done in enacting the Income Tax Management Act of 1961. But the imposition of specific taxes,

and the granting of reliefs and allowances, is a residual subject over which the Federal authorities have no jurisdiction.

All the Governments recognise the desirability of having uniform rates of income tax, but none has yet been willing to relinquish its jurisdiction in the matter. The problem is being tackled both through direct contacts with the Regional Ministers of Finance and through the Joint Tax Board established under the Income Tax Management Act, and the Minister is hopeful that his efforts will eventually be crowned with success.

**Insurance Companies**

**O.617. Dr B. U. Nzeribe** asked the Minister of Finance, whether his Ministry has now realised that Foreign Insurance and Finance houses are taking out too much money from this country; and what plans he has to arrest the situation.

**Prince Lamuye** : The Minister is not aware that Foreign Insurance and Finance houses have taken out too much money from this country. The object of the Insurance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill which was passed by this honourable House on 21st March, is to require insurance companies operating in Nigeria to invest their resources fully in Nigeria.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** : I really cannot understand this answer because during the Morgan Commission of Enquiry such an allegation was made and Government did not refute it, and even this idea of taking out money by the insurance companies was admitted by Government representatives. The Parliamentary Secretary is now giving us a different answer altogether.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : The policy of the Government is to allow investors to repatriate their profits and dividends after payment of tax, but if they are winding up their business and they want to repatriate their capital we also allow them to do so. That is the policy of the Government. We are not supporting anybody taking money out of the country illegally. As a matter of fact, under the Exchange Control Ordinance no one can. If it is their legitimate money they want to take out, have we any reason to refuse it?

**Dr Nzeribe :** How does the Minister's explanation reconcile with the answer given by his Parliamentary Secretary that he is not aware that insurance companies are taking out money from Nigeria? Are not profits money? If they are not taking out money from this country, what investment have they made in this country out of the profits they have made during the past year?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** There are many insurance companies in this country. We say we are not aware of any specific one, but if the hon. Member has a specific one in mind he should please say so. I hear an hon. Gentleman asking me "What about the Morgan allegation?" But what have I got to do with the Morgan allegation? We are not aware of any particular insurance company repatriating money by the backdoor. That is our answer.

#### First Development Loan

**O.618 Dr B. U. Nzeribe** asked the Minister of Finance, how much of the £20,000,000 registered stock of the Federal Republic of Nigeria First Development Loan was subscribed to as at January 29, 1964, how much of this amount came from the East, how much from the West, how much from the North; and how much from Mid-Western Nigeria.

**Prince Lamuye :** The Federal Republic of Nigeria First Development Loan of £20 million was fully subscribed on the 29th January, 1964. As regards the second part of the question, the subscriptions may be classified according to the residence of applicants in the Regions mentioned, as follows :—

Northern Nigeria ..	..	£ 313,510
Eastern Nigeria ..	..	29,200
Western Nigeria ..	..	271,380
Mid-Western Nigeria ..	..	2,950
		<hr/>
		£617,040
		<hr/>

**Dr Nzeribe :** According to the Budget only £2.4 million was subscribed as against £20 million originally asked for. Would the Minister explain to this House whether this is not an indirect vote of no confidence by the Nigerian public by not being able to subscribe £20 million which is about ten shillings a head and in spite of the fact that in a country like Nigeria

the public could not contribute up to 50 per cent of the £20 million asked for by the Central Bank of Nigeria?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** My hon. Friend perhaps does not understand his own question, with very great difference to him. His question is how much of this amount came from the East, the West and the North and we have given him the figures. Lagos is not a region. He did not ask us whether the banks subscribed the balance. So why did he want to force an answer out of our mouth? How much did the hon. Member subscribe? How much did Awo Omama subscribe with all the degree holders one can find there?

**Mr Ogbalu :** In view of the number of questions on the *Order Paper*, I think those who have given notice to ask these questions should be given priority over these numerous supplementary questions.

#### Economic Aid from Soviet Block Countries

**O.619 Dr B. U. Nzeribe** asked the Minister of Finance, why the Federal Government has not made efforts to receive economic aid from the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I do not accept the assumption upon which the hon. Member's question is based. As has frequently been stated, the Republic of Nigeria welcomes economic aid from any quarter, provided only that the aid is available for projects within the National Development Plan, and is free from unacceptable conditions.

During the last three years my colleagues and I have not spared ourselves in our efforts to make our needs known to all countries which might be able to offer assistance. To this end, I have myself visited many capitals throughout the world, including Moscow, Peking, East Berlin, Prague, Warsaw, Sofia and Belgrade.

If little economic aid has so far been received from the Socialist countries it is not for lack of effort on the part of the Federal Government.

**Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) :** Is the Minister aware that because the Federal Government refused to allow the experts from



[MR EMEME]

these Socialist countries to come and make a survey of our economic requirements they have refused also to give aid to this country?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** If my hon. Friend will disclose the source of his information then I will argue with him. Is he a paid agent of those people?

**Mr Mbah :** We really want an answer to this question because the Minister's visit to the Socialist countries is a mere window dressing. If he can afford to appeal directly to the western world, why has he not got the courage to make an appeal to the Socialist people for aid rather than complaining here every year of lack of funds and trying to mortgage everything to the western block?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** The supplementary question is mere window dressing. My answer is clear and I want my hon. Friend who professes to be a friend of the Communists to know that I was trained in a Communist country. I went to my business school in Czechoslovakia and am more socialist than he is.

#### African Development Bank

**O.675. Mr P. I. Ejukwa** asked the Minister of Finance, what independent nations of the O.A.U. have contributed to the proposed African Development Bank; and if he will make a statement on the amount already contributed by each member state.

**Prince Lamuye :** To the best of the Minister's knowledge, ten African independent nations have ratified the Agreement establishing the African Development Bank and have deposited the instrument of Ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. They are: Nigeria, Sudan, Tanganyika, Kenya, Ivory Coast, Uganda, Mali, Congo Leopoldville, Guinea, Sierra Leone.

The total contributions amount to 32 per cent of the authorised capital of the Bank. The Agreement provides that each member state should contribute 5 per cent of its paid up shares.

#### INFORMATION

##### Publicity at the U.N.O.

**O.291. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Information, if he is aware that Nigeria is not adequately publicised at the United

Nations, in New York and in Washington, all of which have only one information officer; and whether he intends to increase the number by providing one information officer in each place.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (Mr S. A. Yerokun):** Steps have been taken to post an information Officer to the office of Nigeria's Permanent Representative at the United Nations.

#### Federal Film Unit

**O.500. Mr A. A. Odurinde** asked the Minister of Information, how much the Federal Film Unit spent between April 1960 and 31st March, 1963 on film production.

**Mr S. A. Yerokun :** The Federal Film Unit spent a sum of £137,866 between April 1960 and 31st March, 1963, on film production. This figure is made up as follows:

April 1960-March 1961	..	£	36,557
April 1961-March 1962	..		60,503
April 1962-March 1963	..		40,806
Total	.. ..		<u>£137,866</u>

#### Voice of Nigeria

**O.620. M. Yushau A. Mohammed** asked the Minister of Information, how soon the "Voice of Nigeria" will be heard all over the world.

**Mr S. A. Yerokun :** The "Voice of Nigeria" is already heard all over the world. This point was made clear to the Member for Kubau-Soba (*Yushau Mohammed*) in my answer to his previous question No. O.177 and he may, with advantage, refresh his memory by reading my reply to that Question as published at pages 30 and 31 of the Report of the House of Representatives Debates for Tuesday 24th March, 1964.

**Mr A. U. D. Mba :** On a point of order, Sir. I think we do not come here to play. The Ministry of Information should be very serious about broadcasts. Even the Prime Minister himself, when he returned from the Congo,

made a statement that he could not hear the "Voice of Nigeria" over there and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information comes here to say that the "Voice of Nigeria" is heard all over the world. Is he trying to tell us that the Prime Minister was lying?

**Mr S. A. Yerokun :** When the Prime Minister made that statement it might have been true, but not to-day.

## MINES AND POWER

### Power for Ahoada

**O.293. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, how soon he intended to supply Ahoada Town with electricity.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika):** Ahoada is not included in the list of towns recommended for inclusion in the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria's New Towns Development Programme, Phase II. The Minister cannot therefore say now when the Corporation will supply electricity to Ahoada Town.

### Ndikelionwu Iron Deposits

**O.294. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he would send a team of surveyors to Ndikelionwu in Awka Division to see the high quality iron deposits there with a view to exploiting it.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika :** When information about this iron ore deposit was first received in 1963 the Principal Geologist stationed at Enugu was directed to go and investigate it. This was done and he paid two visits to Ndikelionwu but all that was discovered was the slag from old disused blacksmiths' smithies. It is well known that laterite was used by blacksmiths in former days as their source of iron but these rarely constitute economic deposits of iron ore. If the Member is prepared to conduct a geologist to the site of this deposit the Acting Senior Geologist stationed at Enugu will accompany him at the hon. Member's convenience.

### Mbaise Minerals

**O.501. Mr N. D. Ukah** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he would state what minerals have been discovered in the Mbaise

District in Owerri Division, in what towns they are located; and whether Government has any plans for their exploitation.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika :** The Minister is not aware of the discovery of any minerals of economic importance in Mbaise District in Owerri Division.

### Oshun Mineral Deposits

**O.503. Mr A. A. Odurinde** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, when he would intensify the search for mineral deposits in Oshun Division and if he would make a statement.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika :** The search for mineral deposits in Oshun Division has already been intensified. Systematic geological mapping of the greater part of Oshun Division has already been completed. A preliminary aeromagnetic survey of the whole of Nigeria was conducted under Canadian Technical Assistance in 1961 and this survey revealed that three particular areas merited closer examination: the North-Eastern part of Oshun Division falls within one of these areas, which is referred to as the Ilesha Block.

A detailed air-borne geophysical survey of this block has recently been completed, also under Canadian Technical Assistance. Detailed prospecting on the ground is now about to commence by a team of four economic geologists and one geophysicist, whose services are being provided by the Government of Italy as part of their contribution to the Six-Year Development Programme.

### Benue Mineral Survey

**O.621 Mr P. Tarkende** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what the result was of the survey recently carried out in Benue Province for oil and mineral deposits in the area.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika :** The limestone deposits near Yandev in Benue Province have recently been geologically surveyed and appraisal drilling has proved a substantial deposit of good quality limestone, suitable for cement manufacture. This is a most useful addition to the inventory of the nation's mineral deposits and a detailed report on the results of this investigation is now in the course of preparation.

**[ALHAJI AHMADU FATIKA]**

The Minister of Mines and Power has given approval for SAFRAP (Nigeria) Limited, to conduct an aero-magnetic survey of parts of Benue Province. The Minister has been informed that this survey has not yet been completed.

**Afam-Calabar Power Line**

**O.622 Mr O. J. Eminue** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether the construction of the main electric line from Afam Gas Station to Calabar had been completed, and when he proposes to switch on electric lights at Ikot-Ekpene, Uyo and Calabar.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika** : The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to a similar question which was answered on the 17th March, and is to be found at page 190 of the Official Report.

**Power for Oron**

**O.623. Mr O. J. Eminue** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether now that the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria has completed a survey of the towns recommended by the Eastern Nigeria Government for the supply of electricity, he would consider extending electricity supply to Oron during the 1964-65 financial year.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika** : The Electricity Corporation of Nigeria has completed the survey of towns recommended by the Eastern Nigeria Government and has forwarded its report and recommendations to that Government. No final decision has, however, yet been taken on the towns to be included for development during the present programme.

**Power for Uyo and Ikot-Ekpene**

**O.624. Mr P. O. Akpan** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, how soon Uyo and Ikot-Ekpene in the Old Calabar Province would be provided with electricity

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika** : The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to the last question but one.

**Use of Aba South Natural Gas**

**O.625. Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether Government has any plans within the Six-Year Development period to extend supply of natural gas

which has been found in abundance in Aba South to Obigbo, Ogwe and Akwere.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika** : Government does not at present engage in the supply of natural gas to townships or industrial installations and there is no provision in the Six-Year Development Plan for this.

However, gas found in oilfields in Eastern Nigeria is being supplied by Shell-BP to the E.C.N. power station at Afam and the Trans-Amadi Industrial Estate near Port Harcourt. The company has also obtained a licence to pipe gas to industrial establishments near Aba.

**Further Electricity Supply Aba Division**

**O.626. Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he would supply electricity to Obigbo, Akwete, Ogwe, Umuagba and Azumini in view of their nearness to the Afam Power Station.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika** : None of the towns mentioned by the hon. Member are included in the list submitted by the Eastern Nigeria Government to the E.C.N. for possible inclusion in the Corporation's New Towns Development Programme, Phase II. The Minister of Mines and Power is therefore not in a position to say when they will be supplied with electricity.

**Compensation for Economic Trees**

**O.627. Mr J. A. Akor** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he would ensure that adequate compensation is paid to owners of economic trees destroyed in the process of oil exploration in Eastern Nigeria.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika** : Licences granted to oil companies contain provisions for the payment of adequate compensation to the owners of economic trees destroyed in the process of oil exploration. The rate of compensation to be paid for each tree is determined by the Regional Government. In the case of Eastern Nigeria, the rates are fixed by the Regional Ministry of Agriculture.

**NOTICE OF MOTION****BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh** : 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. till 12 midnight.

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

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos Central): Whilst nobody would object to night sittings when they become absolutely necessary, we would appeal to the hon. Minister to space them from each other. For example, if last night we sat till twelve o'clock it would only be fair if we are given a respite to-day, and day after tomorrow we might have a night sitting. But the Minister would tie us down and weaken us completely if they follow consecutively like that.

**Mr D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): The Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) who has just spoken has never attended any night sitting.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): Hon. Members who have absented themselves here from night sittings should not come here to interfere with our pleasure during night sittings. We enjoy them, and we shall carry on.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: May I add that the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) would be saved from midnight mischief-making by attending night sittings.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* 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. till 12 midnight.

## NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

### RENAMING OF MONUMENTS BEARING COLONIAL NAMES

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** (Ahoada Central): I rise to move—

That, in pursuance of the practice of shaking off all colonial vestiges, this House urges the Federal Government to change all monuments bearing foreign names to one bearing indigenous names.

First of all, may I point out that the word "one" here is a typographical error.

I am convinced that I have a very easy task to perform in moving this Motion which is non contentious and which commends itself to all sides of this honourable House. I, therefore, call for its easy acceptance by our able Government.

Why I say so is that the spirit of this Motion is a necessary sequence to our Republic status: yea! Independence status. We cannot have one and leave out the other in so far as it has been the practice in many other nations.

I shall approach the discussion on this Motion from two points of view. The first is the psychological, and the second is national, and both, of course, will lead to patriotism.

Firstly, I crave the indulgence of this House through you, Sir, to bear with me a little while I dilate on the psychological impact that has been brought to bear due to the delay in changing all these colonial vestiges.

Right from the lower animals there is a cunning or a craft which one can call a design by which animals of prey arrest, confound, and dominate their victims. A psychologist once described this as "fascinating stage setting". Thus a leopard or a tiger with its beautiful skin and bright eyes could over-awe or fascinate a lamb or even a big antelope.

Once the lamb or the antelope looks into its bright eyes and takes in the mixture of fear and admiration which the stage setting is intended to convey the lamb or the antelope is finished. What happens next is a matter of course.

[MR ONWUCHEKWA]

Man, too, as a higher animal does this stage setting in a more subtle way. One generally finds that the master's desk, his big robe, and the amount of protocol with which the master surrounds himself are simply to over-awe and fascinate the servant to submission. Usually, this stage setting succeeds in producing the desired effect, and the longer this stage setting continues or the longer the victim remains with the stage setting the worse is the plight of the victim.

In the case of the lower animals, the fear sinks down to the sub-conscious mind of the victim, and even if the victim fights as hard as it can, it can never break the bondage until it re-educates the sub-conscious mind.

The reason for this is because the victim would be working against a very nasty law in nature which is called the "Law of Reversed Effort". This law of reversed effort is a law whereby one finds that whatever one achieves is the opposite of what one intended to achieve. This is the conscious mind fighting against the sub-conscious mind, and psychologists tell us that the sub-conscious mind is ten times stronger than the conscious mind.

When the two have pitched war against each other one has the nasty law which I have earlier on mentioned—the law of reversed effort. So, as it is with individuals so it is with a nation. Anybody who is subject to this law may exclaim with St. Paul of old: "*The good that I would that do I not, but the evil I would not that do I.*"

The pity of it all is that the sub-conscious mind has a knack of passing things on from one generation to another unless it is counteracted.

Our colonial masters who are adept and experts in these matters know this very well, and that is why they have monuments which are in themselves very excellent. In those days they gave colonial names to things. They gave the best college for boys the name "King's College", and the best college for girls the name "Queen's College". The best hospital for stitching bones they named the "Royal Orthopaedic Hospital." The best roads and streets were named after colonial Governors.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): On a point of order, there has never been a time when it has been agreed that anything attached to the word "King" or "Queen" is the best. I think

the Member for Ahoada Central (*Mr Onwuchekwa*) mentioned King's College as being the best school in the country. King's College is not the best school in this country. Dennis Memorial Grammar School is the best school in the whole country.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja): On a point of order, in this honourable House which is the highest in the land, small minds should not be allowed to express small things. Now, the Mover of this Motion spoke the truth by saying that King's College is the best in the land. He is not an old horse. The Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) took entrance examinations to the College several times but could not pass. (*Laughter*).

**Mr Onwuchekwa**: For the information of the House, I am an old boy of the Dennis Memorial Grammar School, Onitsha. When I said that King's College was the best I did not mean that it was the best academically; I mean that it was the best staffed.

As I was saying, to the best roads and streets they gave the names of colonial Governors and, as a result, we have Queen's Drive, Milverton Avenue, Glover Road, and so on. The result is that even to-day, nearly four years after independence, our people are still prone to look at things belonging to the white man as the best.

Even in this very Lagos I have gone round and have seen in a barber's shop a board carrying the inscription "London Barber". The aim of the barber is simply to portray himself as the best barber.

And if you go into the villages, Mr Speaker, and you have a very good limousine with your wife inside it, you will be surprised to find that even the children will be calling you either *bature*, *oyibo*, *beke* or *onye ocha*, as the case may be.

A Member has just asked in under-tone what *onye ocha* means. It means white man. It is assumed that any person who is well-dressed and rides in a limousine must be a white man.

This is because the stage-setting has sunk down into our sub-conscious mind and all our surface rebellion or conscious efforts would hardly yield the desired result until we have started to re-educate our sub-conscious mind. It is only then that we shall be operating the law of reversed efforts. What is more, we shall be passing it on to the younger generation.

If one looks intently, because these colonial vestiges or what I call stage-settings have remained far too long with us, one will see the nasty law of reversed efforts subtly operating among us. Only recently we heard the hon. Minister of Finance appealing to us that we should cherish things made in Nigeria. Now, the reason why we do not patronise them is not far to seek. It is only that this law is in operation. So that quite contrary to our expectation we even cherish things belonging to the white man now more than we did in pre-independence days. It is even worse with our boys and girls.

In the name of fashion, do we not see that our culture is going to blaze? Our girls prefer wearing wigs to plaiting their hair the native way—the Yoruba, Fulani, Hausa and Ibo ways of plaiting hair are very beautiful indeed.

Our boys, instead of wearing native costumes as was the case in the days of the principle of boycott the boycottables, prefer wearing the tight trousers and shirts.

It is nothing but the law of reversed efforts that is at work. For psychological reasons therefore, these colonial vestiges must be taken away. The stage-setting must be offset and substituted so as to re-educate the sub-conscious mind. This is a malady which must be cured with a corrosive ointment and not with balm.

I have seen the Amendment filed by the Minister of Education. This is merely to treat a very bad malady, a very bad sore, with balm. It may be painful but we must be ruthless in renaming all monuments bearing colonial names so as to make them bear indigenous names.

I said earlier that I would discuss this Motion from two points of view. One of them is the national point of view which needs not much elaboration because that is apparent to everyone.

When the light that showed the way to independence started to show its rays, it started by renaming some of the most glaring places. European Hospitals were renamed. European quarters were changed to Reservation, and so on. It was then that our youngmen started to see visions of glory and the old men, dreamt dreams of blessings. That is why we are what we are to-day. A Member wants to know what we are. The answer is that we are a Republic.

From the national point of view, how can we still continue to describe the best equipped and best staffed Colleges as King's College and Queen's College? May I ask, which King and Queen are we referring to? Why can we not rename the King's College to read Azikiwe College in honour of the first President of this Republic, and the Queen's College to read Flora College in honour of the wife of the first President; we can also rename the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital and call it Abubakar Orthopaedic Hospital in honour of our respected Prime Minister. Glover Road should become Adele Road; and Milverton Avenue could be renamed Onwuchekwa Avenue, thereby honouring me for moving this Motion. Even the word Lagos could be changed to *Eko* City which is sonorous and indigenous, while Port Harcourt could be renamed *Obomotu* or *Igwe Ocha* which is its indigenous name. I do not like anything artificial. But from the national point of view, we must change these names right now. None must be left.

From the psychological point of view, we must start now to re-educate the sub-conscious mind so that worse things might not happen. I am very optimistic about the progress and the future of this country.

I can only conclude my speech by quoting a part of Sir Winston Churchill's speech at Dundee on the 11th of October, 1908. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I will quote—

*"And now I say to you Liberals of Scotland and Dundee"*—And here I will substitute

*Liberals of Nigeria—*

*"two words—Diligence and Daring. Let that be your motto for the year that is to come 'Few', it is written, 'and evil are the days of man'. Soon, very soon, our brief lives will be lived. Soon, very soon, we and our fathers will have passed away. Uncounted generations will trample heedlessly upon our tombs. What is the use of living if it be not to strive for noble causes and to make this muddled world a better place for those who will live in it after we are gone? How else can we put ourselves in harmonious relation with the great verities and consolations of the infinite and eternal. And I avow my faith that we are marching towards better days. Humanity will not be cast down. We are going on—*

[MR ONWUCHEKWA]

*swinging bravely forward along the grand high road—and already behind the distant mountains is the promise of sun”.*

I beg to move.

**Mr D. C. Ahamefula** (Okigwi South West) : I rise to second this non-controversial Motion, which has been so ably moved, because of its patriotic outlook and because it seeks to enhance the prestige of Nigeria.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi** (Afenmai East) : On a point of order, the Secunder of this Motion, the Member for Okigwi South West (*Mr Ahamefula*) is wearing an English dress. He should be in Nigerian national dress before he seconds the Motion.

**Mr Ahamefula** : I do not think the Motion calls for the wearing of a national dress before it can be seconded by anybody.

With the passage of a Bill entitled, “Abolition of Queen’s Counsel,” here a few days ago, I trust that both the Government and the entire Members of this House will not hesitate to pass this Motion.

There should be no limit to our efforts in projecting Nigerian personality everywhere we go and in everything we do. The idea of projecting the personality of Nigeria in all aspects of Nigerian life should be preached as well as practised. And to all intents and purposes, that is what this Motion stand for.

It will be making a mockery of our republican status at this stage of our independence if Nigerians continue to retain or honour such titles as O.B.E., M.B.E. or the like, and to name any of our institutions of learning, towns, ports and streets after foreigners.

Such titles and names have never helped Nigeria in any way, rather they have portrayed their holders as instruments of oppression, suppression and victimisation of our once-upon-a-time colonial masters.

I submit that it is shameful to continue to bear such titles and names given to us by our colonial masters, to-day and as Nigerians, it belittles us in the eyes of the outside world.

This Motion seeks nothing more than the exercise of the rights of independence which we have successfully achieved. By accepting this Motion, our Federal Government will be implementing the desires of the millions of people in this populous country and we shall feel proud of our republican status.

The non-acceptance of this Motion by our Federal Government, however, makes the attainment of republican status by this country unrealistic. After all, Mr Speaker, why did the Government stop the practice of Nigerians taking cases to the Privy Council and why did we abolish the title of Queen’s Counsel? These actions were taken, not out of jealousy or ill-will but because of national pride and self-reliance.

We have so many titles in this country to substitute for these foreign ones and if the titles we have are not enough then a committee should be set up on a national level which could design more titles for our use. The titles so coined out by Nigerians for Nigerians should reflect Nigerian nationality.

There should no longer be such a thing as having the image of Queen Elizabeth II in front of our National Hall. The statue should be demolished immediately. There should not be the naming of our institutions of higher learning after the King and Queen of England when there are many eminent Nigerians whose names can be given to these institutions.

It would take me hours of valuable time and pages of writing to show why foreign-designed titles should be abolished now in Nigeria but with the present Federal Government such an elaboration is quite unnecessary.

The Government is composed of men of very high intelligence, experience, foresight and national outlook. These men need not be told that these titles and names have outlived their usefulness and are disgraceful to Nigerians.

It is unfortunate that an Amendment has been proposed to this patriotic Motion but I crave the indulgence of this honourable House to pray the Government to think twice. He who is not proud of his own thing is a fool.

**The Minister of External Affairs** (Dr Jaja Wachuku) : The Member for Okigwi South West (*Mr Ahamefula*) is using colonial language.

**Mr Speaker** : It is difficult for me to give a ruling on this matter as I do not understand this particular colonial language.

**Mr Ahamefula** : I am not surprised at what the hon. Minister has just said because he is a

*House of Representatives Debates*

1861

[Renaming of Monuments

7 APRIL 1964

Bearing Colonial Names]

1862

late-comer. He never knew that this matter had been tabled here once and that I was able to dismiss it.

If we go by our own designed titles it will make us more honourable and we shall be respected and easily identified. I need not say much as a word is enough for the wise.

I beg to second the Motion.

**The Minister of Education** (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku): I rise to move an Amendment to the Motion under debate by asking for the deletion of all the words after "Government" and substituting the following:—

"to consider using Nigerian names and appellations in describing our monuments and institutions wherever appropriate."

My Amendment will therefore read as follows:—

"That in pursuance of the practice of shaking off all colonial vestiges, this House urges the Federal Government to consider using Nigerian names and appellations in describing our monuments and institutions wherever appropriate."

There is no Member in this House who does not want to shake off the annoying vestiges of our colonial past. Even people with an antiquarian interest would raise the most serious objections to the retention of those vestigial remains which were recklessly introduced in the past by the colonial power without the slightest consideration for our feeling and self-respect. Many of our streets and institutions were named after men that were unknown to our fathers. The names of our forefathers were hardly ever used.

Since independence, however, conditions have changed. With that systematic procedure which characterised the evolution of the Nigerian Constitution, we have been changing and erasing many of the vestiges of our colonial past. For instance, King George V Stadium has become the Lagos City Stadium. The Queen's Own Nigerian Regiment has become the Nigerian Army, and no bone has been broken.

Members will agree with me that these changes of names are in complete accord with our independent status and have been carried out in a way characteristically our own.

It is in the best tradition of our constitution that these changes should take place like an evolutionary process without bearing the stamp of a sudden commotion. Elsewhere in the world people have reacted violently against the relics of a past unwanted regime. Statues have been ripped from their pedestals. Tombs have been violated. Skeletons of tyrants have even been hanged in public places, while names of cities and highways and monuments have been erased with violence. These reactions have always been caused by events or memories that are exceedingly provocative.

In Nigeria, democracy has been firmly established and the good sense of our people has always followed the systematic line of approach. While we can preserve unperturbed the historic sense engendered by a Mungo Park, or a Mary Slessor, we can also, and we continue to, change the names of streets and monuments without undue commotion.

It is this that has led me to move on behalf of the Federal Government the Amendment which further underlines what we have been doing and will continue to do. For, indeed, we have been shaking off systematically the vestigial remains of our colonial past in many ways. Our stamps and our currency, our streets and our lanes, our homes and our dresses, our music and our songs, our dances and our amusements, I will even go further to say our names, in fact, the whole of our culture—all have been demonstrating that we are anxious to continue our lives in harmony with our surroundings, without the jarring effect of any dismal colonial relic.

I should therefore like to move the amendment—

"That in pursuance of the practice of shaking off all colonial vestiges, this House urges the Federal Government to consider using Nigerian names and appellations in describing our monuments and institutions wherever appropriate."

I think that the suggestions made by the Mover in connection with King's College, Queen's College and the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital will now be withdrawn by him.

I know of a gentleman who at one time, in order not to shake off the colonial vestige, changed his name from Onwuchekwa to "Die



[ONYIBA AJA NWACHUKU]

Wait". The literal translation of Onwuchekwa in *Ibo* is "Die Wait". I am wondering whether the Member for Ahoada Central (*Mr Onwuchekwa*) is not going to shake off that colonial vestige, or will he continue to answer Onwuchekwa? The hon. Member thought it was a little bit—

**Mr Onwuchekwa** : On a point of information, I have never changed my name. My name is indigenous—Onwuchekwa.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku** : I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju) : I beg to second.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : I rise to support the Amendment. I am happy to note that the Mover of this Motion, the Member for Ahoada Central (*Mr Onwuchekwa*) without being affected whatsoever, straight from his heart when he was moving the Motion referred to King's College as the best College.

**The Minister of External Affairs** (Dr Jaja Wachuku) : On a point of information, I want to say that King's College cannot be compared with Umuahia Government College.

**Mr Speaker** : I would like to draw the attention of hon. Members to the subject matter which is "—to change all monuments bearing foreign names to one bearing indigenous names".

King's College and other schools do not come within that category.

**Mr Ogunsanya** : I am speaking on the Amendment. "... our monuments and institutions wherever appropriate."

The Minister of External Affairs will know that from the history of Government College, Umuahia, many of their students like Godfrey Amachree had to be brought to King's College to be properly tutored.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** Since this statement has been made, I think it will be good to know the percentage of passes King's College had in the last West African School Certificate Examination.

**Mr Speaker** : If hon. Members will only abandon this controversy which does not help the arguments then perhaps we might make good progress.

**Mr Ogunsanya** : These men from new schools are only taught to pass examinations.

I wish to say that if anybody should attack this institution it really should not be Members on my side of the House because if they persist, I will have to ask for the protection of the institution they have attacked so vehemently from the Governor of the Eastern Region, the Chief Justice of the Eastern Region and many other eminent Easterners who are old boys of King's College.

May I say that the Federal Government and indeed the Lagos City Council since independence have not relaxed taking steps within the terms of the Amendment filed by the hon. Minister to make changes where desirable. Victoria Street, as a result, was changed to Nnamdi Azikiwe Street, the Race Course in Lagos was changed to Tafawa Balewa Square, the road leading to the Bar Beach was changed to Ahmadu Bello Road, Moloney Bridge Street which was named after a Colonial Governor, was changed to Adeniji Adele Road, and Onikan Road was changed to Obafemi Awolowo Road. The Coat of Arms of the country both in the Courts and everywhere were changed. Our Flag was changed and our National Anthem is no longer the British National Anthem. A lot has been done and words like "Royal" have even been dropped.

There is certainly need for the country to have institutions like the one the Mover of this Motion was criticising. I say it is desirable because Nigerians from all over the country—from the North, the Mid-West, the East, the West and Lagos—for about thirty years have been living and trained together in this College. The characters of the students have been so moulded that they regard themselves as Nigerians, and this is one thing that we must not lose sight off.

One important thing which has been said and which is spectacular with the suggestions made by our hon. Friend, the Member for Ahoada Central (*Mr Onwuchekwa*) who is against the Amendment, has always been that the first word should be changed. The Member feels that to use the word 'King' is to use a colonial language. I feel that if we really consider changing the word 'King', as some Members have suggested, to 'Oba', there may be a lot of trouble. This has been—

House of Representatives Debates

1865

[Renaming Monuments]

7 APRIL 1964

Bearing Colonial Names]

1866

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** (Ahoada Central) : On a point of order, what we mean is that the impression given by the first word is bad and it is this impression that we want to remove entirely. It is not necessary to change the language.

**Mr Ogunsanya** : The word 'King' does not refer to the King of England. In Yorubaland Obas are called kings, in Iboland they are called *Eze* and in Hausa land they are called *Emirs*. In Calabar too they call their Oba *Obong*. Therefore, if the word 'King' is used it should not create any controversy.

I would like to say that apart from retaining the name of the College, I think that the Nigerian leaders should, in spite of our National Anthem, be reminded and should believe in the words of the phrases which I am now going to read, with the permission of Mr Speaker. I believe that once there is this oneness in all of us, especially if we allow it to germinate from this Parliament, there will be less trouble about the unity of this country. We should not come here and say one thing and then go back to our respective Regions to cut the throats of the members of other Regions or those of the members of our own Region.

With the permission of the Speaker, I now quote :

*"Floreat Collegium ! shall our motto be ;*

*Let us shout it boldly for her sons are we ;*

*Nurtured in our classrooms in our early youth ;*

*Where we learn to cherish chivalry and truth ;*

*Learn to pull together each one with rest ;*

*Praying forth and striving each to do his best ;*

*This shall be our watchword ;*

*Always play the game ;*

*Sound the old schools' praises ;*

*Trumpet forth her fame ;*

*Though of many nations we will not forget ;*

*That we all are brothers with a common debt ;*

*Let us pay by giving as we forge ahead ;*

*Service to our living !*

*Honour to our dead !"*

Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Amendment.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi** (Afenmai East) : I rise to oppose the original Motion and to support the Amendment.

In the first place, the Motion has defeated itself because the Mover used the English language in moving it. Perhaps if the Motion had been moved in vernacular it would not have been lost. I feel that we should not be bitter about these things. It should be on record that Nigeria was once a colonial country. If we do things the way some Members have suggested it would appear that we have not been friendly with our former colonial masters at all. We were never their enemies and we should try to prove that. Our history will not be complete if we try to show that Nigeria was never a colonial country.

For instance, we have some streets and places named after some of our former colonial masters. We have streets and places like the Macpherson Street in Ikoyi, the Glover Memorial Hall in Lagos, and Mellamby Hall in the University of Ibadan. I think that if we retain all these things generations yet unborn will be able to have a true knowledge of the history of this country. The students of the University of Ibadan too will know that the name of the first Principal of the University is Mellamby. So, to begin to rob off all these things is to try to tamper with the history of the country.

I would still like to emphasise that we are not and should not be enemies of our former colonial masters, because if we look at some African countries which are still struggling for their legitimate right of independence, then we will know that Nigeria is a lucky nation, and because of this, I am not in support of the Motion.

There is one other trouble which this type of change will create in our politics. If we agree that there should be that type of change, then when a Party is in power this year, it will name the streets after some eminent sons of the country who are members of the party. If that party is in the Opposition next year, what will happen is that the party in power that year will change all the names of the streets and replace them with the names of the members of the party in power, without

[MR OBI]

any regard for whatever role the members of the Opposition have played in the development of the country. This is one of the reasons why I feel that the Motion should be withdrawn.

I therefore oppose the Motion vehemently.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Akwa North) : There are just a few points which I wish to make.

In the first place, I want to say that the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) was sentimental in his speech, because he was speaking only as an ex-student of the King's College. It was not only in connection with the King's College that the Motion was moved. There are other monuments and institutions which the Motion affects. If we do not change the names of these monuments and institutions then our children will be under a psychological imperialism, that is to say, they will always feel that their forefathers or their fathers have subjected them to foreign rule and therefore self-determination or self-rule will be greatly weakened.

The impression people get when they pass through the Statue of the Queen which is at present in front of the Senate Building is that we still want to be reminded about the old colonial era. But for the good relationship between this country and Britain, I would have asked that the statue of the Queen at present in front of our Senate Building should be hauled into the atlantic ocean. But what I would now suggest is that the statue should be removed and placed in our National Museum. It will find a suitable place in the museum and anybody who wants to know about our history as regards our former colonial masters will go to the museum to have a look at the statue of the Queen there. But to place it in a most conspicuous place in this City of Lagos, I think, will have a great influence in the minds of our youths.

There are some other things which tend to enhance the—

**Mr A. A. Odurinde** (Oshogbo North) : On a point of order, I think it is out of order for Members to read newspapers in this honourable House, but there are some Members on the N.C.N.C. Benches and some on the N.P.C. Benches who are now reading newspapers.

They are not even listening to the Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) who is addressing the House.

**Mr Speaker** : Order. If the Member for Oshogbo North (*Mr Odurinde*) draws my attention to anyone who is reading the newspaper, I will be able to deal with him.

**Mr Ogbalu** : In winding up, I want to say something about the name 'King's College'. I know that the old boys of that College throughout the country will be opposed to the original Motion, but I think that the name of a college like the "Zik College" is as sonorous as the King's College. It is from this point of view that I think that the change should be pleasant to the old and the present students of Kings' College.

Finally, I would like to suggest that our currency when produced in this country should bear the image of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. That will give us an inspiration to infuse patriotism in the minds of the youth and enable them to aspire to higher achievements.

I beg to support the original Motion.

*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 urges the Federal Government to consider using Nigerian names and appellations in describing our monuments and institutions wherever appropriate.

#### AFRICAN COMMON MARKET

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East) : I beg to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper,

That this House notes with great satisfaction the stand of the Prime Minister on the question of Great Britain's entry into the European Common Market and urges him to take all necessary action that will lead to the formation of an African Common Market.

Those are the words of the Motion and they have been carefully chosen. The Prime Minister's stand was followed up quickly by action. The Prime Minister's stand which I am referring is the one which he took at the

Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London in September 1962. With your permission, I will quote a part of the Budget Speech by the hon. Minister of Finance this year—

*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.*

That is precisely what I am driving at in this Motion. That is why I have called on the Prime Minister to take the action necessary because it is the Prime Minister who agrees to anything before it can have a headway. His interest in this particular matter is very keen, judging from all the actions that have been taken since then. This action can only be completed when an African Common Market has been established.

This Motion is very easy to understand and so there should not be much dilation on it. It is the *modus operandi* that must be tackled at once. The Prime Minister's action can take many forms. It can be by way of instructions to any of his Ministers, as has been seen above. It can be of his own initiative and industry. The result expected is the formation of an African Common Market.

The Prime Minister has been issuing statements in connection with the negotiations with the European Common Market. So far there is nothing to complain about in that direc-

tion. The questions that readily arise are as follows. What do we mean by the African Common Market? Is it possible to have it now? That second question is asked because somebody who may be regarded as an authority made a statement recently. The third question is, will all members derive economic advantages from it? The fourth question is, how will it be organised? I shall now set out to answer these questions.

By the African Common Market I mean an economic union or one community made up of independent African countries whose economies have been so adjusted that they become integrated over a number of years. Please that should be carefully noted. It is not expected that the moment the market is announced or the moment it comes into existence the integration takes place at once. It is not so. Even the European Common Market is still in the process of integration. From the period the adjustments are made to the time the full integration takes place will be known as the period of transition. I estimate that the transitional period, after careful examination, will be a period of 18 years. During the 18 years it may be possible to hasten up certain aspects of it. It will be remembered that in the European Common Market, although they fixed their target as 15 years, but certain aspects of it have been hurried up so that by 1962 certain aspects of it will have been completed, but others are still, of course, subject of a great deal of controversy among the six members of the Community. We should not expect that during the 18 years target that I have fixed for the African Common Market that there will not be arguments during the whole time. Certain aspects may take three years; others may take one month. As I am speaking now some aspects have already started to exist.

The question of whether it is possible to have it now has a ready answer. The answer is decidedly yes. All the essential ingredients for the formation of the market now exist. If a carpenter wants to make a suitcase or a wardrobe, he must collect all the ingredients for making the article ready. The African Common Market that we are talking of now has all ingredients for preparing it. Some of these ingredients will be mentioned here but many

[CHIEF ORONSAYE]

of them are known to Members and, therefore, may not be mentioned at all. I will mention some of the ingredients that are already available at present. There is already in existence what is known as the East African Common Market. The executive headquarters of the East African Common Market is at Mombasa. I did not expect that any hon. Member would say anything against this, I would have brought the book concerned. I refer to page 456 of the *Commonwealth Office List*. It is in the Library there. Hon. Members will see not only the headquarters but also the names of the men who run the Common Market—triumvirates. The countries concerned are Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika.

Another is the West African Monetary Union. There is in existence what is called the West African Monetary Union comprising of Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Dahomey, Niger, Senegal, Mauritania and Mali. These are in the monetary union.

It will be remembered that only a few years ago, in fact not more than three years ago, we were in a monetary union in West Africa in the form of the West African Currency Board. At present we have our own currency and it was found necessary to disband the West African Currency Board.

As time goes on it may be even more beneficial to have a currency that embraces more than one country. This will not remove the identity of such countries nor will it destroy their sovereignty, provided that sufficient safeguards are made. The agreement for this Monetary Union was signed in May 1962.

A third one is the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Another one is the Commission for Technical Co-operation for Africa. Yet, another is the Organisation of African Unity. I think this is well-known to everybody. If Members look through the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity, it will be found that very solid foundations have been laid for the establishment of an African Common Market.

Some of the Articles need to be mentioned here, and I refer specifically to Article II and Article VII, and with your permission, I will quote :—

#### “PURPOSES — ARTICLE II”

1. *The Organization shall have the following purposes:*

(a) *to promote the unity and solidarity of the African States;*

(b) *to co-ordinate and intensify their co-operation and efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa;*

(c) *to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity and independence;*

(d) *to eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa; and*

(e) *to promote international co-operation, having due regard to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.*

2. *To these ends, the Member States shall co-ordinate and harmonise their general policies especially in the following fields:*

(a) *political and diplomatic co-operation;*

(b) *economic co-operation, including transport and communication;”*

This is the most important point. Perhaps it may be necessary to read that part of it about ten times. But in order not to waste the time of this House, I will only end by referring to it and drawing the attention of hon. Members to that section, where economic co-operation, including transport and communications were mentioned.

#### “INSTITUTIONS

##### ARTICLE VII

*The Organization shall accomplish its purposes through the following principal institutions:*

(1) *the Assembly of Heads of State and Government;*

(2) *the Council of Ministers;*

(3) *the General Secretariat;*

(4) *the Commission of Mediation, Conciliation and Arbitration.”*

One of the things that should be noticed in Article VII is the meeting of the Heads of States. That is where the hon. Prime Minister comes into this very fully.

The other ingredient that exists is the African Development Bank, and only this morning an hon. Member has asked to know how many

people have paid up and the conditions of this African Development Bank. That shows that the African Development Bank is already in existence. This has also been proved by the United Nations, and all the assistance that that Bank requires will be got from both the United Nations and Africa.

Therefore, these essential ingredients cannot be ignored. And all those who have looked into the structure of the European Economic Community will find that one of the chief weapons which that body uses is the establishment of a fund which is controlled by a bank.

With the establishment of the African Development Bank, the position is already becoming clear. There are many more ingredients and as I have said, many Members are quite familiar with these and so there is no need for me to talk about them.

Will all Members derive economic advantages from these ingredients? That is another question. And the answer is decidedly—yes. It will be remembered that there are Nigerians in Brussels negotiating with the European Economic Community. Many African countries are already associate members of the European Economic Community.

I will quote, with your permission, two pieces here, one from the Budget Speech delivered this year, and the other from a speech made by the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry last year.

*"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 potentials 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."*

This is very very relevant and it is from the Minister of Finance whose ideas internationally and whose knowledge of finance is superb.

The other quotation is from the speech of the Minister of Commerce and Industry as part of his contributions to the Motion on the Economic Community, in 1962. With your permission, I quote:—

*"Some Members have said that Senegal produces groundnuts and Nigeria produces groundnuts, and therefore, we do not trade in such a way. But in Germany they produce motor cars, in France they produce motor cars and in Italy they produce motor cars, and yet they get on well. Why should we not do the same. I do not believe that is all right."*

In other words, what the Minister says is that similarity of production does not prevent the formation of a Common Market. So, buttressed with those two speeches, I think, conclusively, that everybody taking part in it will benefit by it. Let us take Nigeria herself as an example. Nigeria has four Regions and the Federal Territory. The Economic Union has been going on unnoticed by the ordinary citizen. Each Region is the better for it.

If somebody is taking *gari* from the Mid-West to the Federal Territory, he is not hindered from doing so. He takes it straight to Lagos. Somebody taking groundnut from Kano to Benin does it with no hindrance. Both Kano and Benin are the better for that trade. If they were hindered from doing so by restrictions, then there would be a shortage of groundnuts in Benin, a shortage of *gari* in Kano to Lagos and the result of such scarcity as everybody knows is a higher price for those things. The standard of living of the people must reduce as a result of that.

Some people may argue about insufficient means of communication and transport. It is true that at present the means of communication and transport in Africa cannot be compared with what obtains in Europe, but that is one of the chief reasons why the period of integration has been stated as eighteen years.

It is more difficult if we look at some of the countries even in Africa. Take Congo Leopoldville for instance. It is more difficult to go from Leopoldville to Elizabethville than it is to go from Leopoldville to Lagos. But still, we cannot say that the copper from Katanga is not helping the whole of Congo simply because there is difficulty of communication between Leopoldville and Elizabethville. These are

[CHIEF ORONSAYE]

the reasons, as I have said, for stating the period of transition as eighteen years.

With respect to the organisation, with so many ingredients available, the African Common Market can be organised in a record time. As I said earlier, what is required is the Economic Union of the independent countries of Africa. It should come into existence on 1st January, 1966. That is part of what is expected from this Motion, that the African Common Market should start its existence on 1st January, 1966, and get completed 19 years after that. I expect it to follow the ratification of a treaty of Lagos. I say treaty of Lagos because the Motion expects the Prime Minister to take the initiative, but if, for the sake of modesty, he feels that the meeting should be held in another place, he is fully at liberty, according to the Articles of the Organisation for African Unity, to ask for a meeting anywhere. So, it could be in Cairo and if it is in Cairo, the treaty would be the treaty of Cairo. I do not envisage any other places.

The African Economic Unity, as it will be called, will have the task of integrating the economies of the member countries during the transitional period of between 15 and 18 years.

The execution of the Treaty should rest with a 12-member Commission. Consultative bodies should be provided on Transport, Agriculture, Communication and Monetary Policy. These are to be advised by a large Committee to be called the Economic and Social Committee. This body would have several members from each member country.

I envisage that from what I will mention in connection with some other Articles of the Organisation for African Unity, the members from each country should include, at least, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, the Minister of Economic Development, of each country, plus a number of Experts who will form this body which is known as the Committee.

This Committee must be a large body. The total number should be from 190 upwards. By committee, I actually mean a Parliament because with an elaborate organisation like that, it must have a Parliament of its own. That Parliament has, of course, no jurisdiction

on the sovereignty of the States concerned. It is there to debate, argue and legislate on matters connecting economics.

The Council of Ministers should co-ordinate and operate the work of the 12 Commissions. The Council of Ministers is the Cabinet of the Social and Economic Committee. The Charter of the Organisation for African Unity provides in Articles 8 and 20 some of the things that will help in the actual organisation. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I shall quote :

Article 8: "*The Assembly of Heads of State and Government shall be the supreme organ of the Organisation. It shall, subject to the provisions of this Charter, discuss matters of common concern to Africa with a view to co-ordinating and harmonising the general policy of the Organisation. It may, in addition, review the structure, functions and acts of all the organs and any specialised agencies which may be created in accordance with the present Charter*".

Article 20: "*The Assembly shall establish such Specialised Commissions as it may deem necessary, including the following :—*

- "(1) *Economic and Social Commission,*
- "(2) *Educational and Cultural Commission,*
- "(3) *Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Commission,*
- "(4) *Defence Commission,*
- "(5) *Scientific, Technical and Research Commission.*"

In connection with Article 20, I will direct the attention of honourable Members to the first item of that Article, that is the Economic and Social Commission. It may be necessary to use this as the Economic Parliament of the Community. If it is modified due to Article 21, the word "Commission" should be changed to "Committee" because Article 21 of the Organisation requires that there should be a Minister who is responsible for a particular subject as a Member of that Commission whenever it is created by the Organisation for African Unity.

It should be remembered that even at the present stage of the development of the European Economic Community there are still

*House of Representatives Debates*

1877

[*African Common Market*]

7 APRIL 1964

[*African Common Market*]

1878

serious disagreements on certain matters. It should therefore be expected that there will be arguments among the members of the proposed African Common Market; but they will be mere arguments which will make the working interesting.

Sometime ago I moved a Motion concerning the entry of Great Britain into the European Common Market in which I described the working machinery as an economic colossus. I could not find any other word for the description; so what this new Motion seeks to establish is another economic colossus, greater in every respect than the economic colossus of Europe.

We have the ingredients for making it that colossus which is capable of bringing the European Economic Community on her knees. After all they are manufacturing countries that make up that Community and the countries of Africa have great potentials and industrial ability. At any rate we have a great deal of raw materials which, if denied to the members of the Economic Community, would have a great effect on them.

This is very important because why the Community is making so much of what might be described as pride over the whole thing is that many countries in Africa are associate members through several zones, for example, through the French zone.

But if the countries of Africa are united as one body and channel their products through an African Economic Community, then it will be possible to control the prices of the products, especially primary products, that now command ridiculously low prices.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry is aware of the present prices of our products which are very ridiculously low, and one of the aims of this proposed African Community is to make the European Community come down on her knees to buy the things that we have.

A treaty of Lagos should take everything into consideration by making provision for associate members to be admitted. In the Treaty of Rome, which is the bible of the European Economic Community, it is provided that the Community can take in associate members. That is why the Community expected Nigeria and other countries to come in as associate members if Great Britain entered. We knew that that was derogatory,

we kicked against it, and our Prime Minister followed it up and the objection was upheld.

If the African Community comes into existence in the form in which it is envisaged it will be possible to allow other countries, say America or any other nation, to come in as associate members; and they will have to do this on their knees.

With all that I have said I beg to move.

**Mr U. O. Ayeni** (Afenmai North West): I rise to second this Motion of which the emphasis this time is on the founding of an African Common Market.

Last year we had occasion to speak exhaustively on our objections regarding the application of Great Britain to enter the Common Market. The Prime Minister then gave us very fine hopes, and this year during the meeting in Geneva of world Trade Ministers our own Minister of Commerce and Industry did a lot to put us on a better footing, thus making way for an African Common Market to be set up.

I am therefore going to discuss this Motion under very brief headings, because I do not want to belabour this House with a number of quotations which I believe Members could easily get; or to repeat what I did say last year on this matter.

The first aspect is a political one. I firmly believe that an African Common Market will make for a better African union, as the European Community has at the back of its mind a proposed European union. I think hon. Members who cared to read the little pamphlet by . . . . on World Government would agree that the members of the European Community have in mind an eventual European union.

In our own case I firmly believe that with a Common Market embracing all sections of Africa there would be a better union in Africa, and a better understanding. It would, for example, improve the relationship between the various countries of Africa, like Ghana and Nigeria, or any other countries where relations seem a little estranged.

As far as this goes, the Organisation of African Unity is doing its best, and I hope a Common Market will come in as a saving grace and further strengthen the union which the O.A.U. is trying to build up.



[MR AYENI]

The other point is the cultural aspect of it. A Common Market will in my mind enhance better understanding among the countries of the African Continent; and it may well lead to the study of one or more African languages by another country. For instance, Nigeria may decide to teach in her schools the *Swahili* language and in Central Africa they may decide to teach in their own schools the *Hausa* language. It is through the study of these languages that we will understand one another's culture and help to build up African unity.

The big question now is the economic aspect of the proposed African Common Market. It is a bit embarrassing, when one looks at the figures of trade of African countries, to find that most of the commodities are raw materials.

As the Member for Benin East (*Mr Oronsaye*) has said it will not make us prosperous if we trade solely among ourselves in our primary products. I did say this last year. I said also that as Northern Nigeria produces groundnuts, we cannot exchange them with those from Dakar or Senegal. However, the idea in this new proposal seeks for a wider scope.

What I have in mind is not that the whole of the African Continent should form a single market by itself, because at present we know the problem that is confronting the African countries as regards development. We want to catch up very speedily in our race for industrial development and the only way we could do it is to have the money.

It does not bring pride when we borrow so much money from abroad, so the first thing to consider is the coming together of all the African countries concerned to plan jointly for the stabilisation of the prices of our agricultural products. Unless this is done, we are likely to compete again with one another in the markets outside Africa.

We know that sharp falls in our farm and tropical products are very disruptive to our economic development, and if in any one year we have a steep rise in the price of rubber or groundnuts and in the following year, a sharp fall, it does not make for steady industrialisation.

Therefore all countries in Africa who are purely primary producing countries should jointly endeavour very seriously to achieve price stabilization for our own goods. In this

light it is necessary to have a level below which the price could not fall because if it falls below that level, it is likely to hamper our own industrial development.

In order to accelerate the pace of industrialization, and in order to have our own economy geared into that of a more developed country, we should in the first instance decide on a free trade or non-tariff barriers within Africa. In other words, there should be no trade barrier between one African country and another.

I would like to say that when I talk of African Common Market, in my mind, I exclude the Mediterranean countries of Africa because they are not, strictly speaking, developing countries. Several of them can already be grouped along with the advanced countries or countries that are already a little more developed than we are. So that if we have free trade or non-tariff barrier within the community or within the projected area, it will help our products to move freely from one part of the African country to another.

We have had a good start with the African Development Bank. I think that this, by itself, will be a sort of a place where we can easily take up for expansion of trade. But if we look at some petty figures, we will find that in spite of all the hue and cry, our trade with Ghana is not as bad as we expected. For instance, on the import side—in 1961 it was £263,000, it deteriorated in 1962 to £7,000, and in 1963 it rose up slightly again to £160,000. Then on the export side, you have £673,000 in 1961, £516,000 in 1962 and £405,000 in 1963. In other words, our export trade with Ghana is declining while our import trade with Ghana is very unstable.

The idea is that if we have an African Common Market, we can improve on this. Then our relationship with other countries, as I said earlier, may even still be better.

Unfortunately, we cannot get anywhere the figures for the French-speaking African countries because all our trade with them goes straight to France. That was one of the reasons why we did say last year that it would not be fair for Nigeria to support Britain's entry into the European Common Market. We further said that Nigeria should not support

an entry into the European Common Market which we know is detrimental to our own economic advancement.

It has been suggested by the Member for Benin East (*Chief Oronsaye*) that a sort of ministerial council be formed to plan for the projected market. The time limit of about twelve or eighteen years is a little uninteresting because already we are making the start and it is no use fixing a time as far as trade is concerned. All what is required of African countries now is a joint effort to stabilize prices of their own products so that such a price will not fall below a certain level which they have all agreed upon.

If African countries continue to compete with one another in the outside market, the whole show will be that one country will outpace the other in the market and the other country is likely to be the loser for it. This will in turn weaken the rate of the overall development in the whole of Africa. The development of African countries will not be as fast as we will expect it to be.

We all know that attention should be given to what we refer to as comparative advantage in such an economic development, but I think our geographical position makes it uneasy for us because we grow exactly the same types of tropical crops all along the African Continent. In this connection, all we want is that wherever these crops are grown, their prices must be the same so that one area will not exploit the other areas. This will also prevent the former colonial masters from exploiting one area to the advantage or disadvantage of other areas. The question of one African country trying to knock the other one out of the market by unnecessarily lowering its own price, or the other country trying to raise its own price, will be ruled out.

As it is now, the whole problem rests a great deal with the Organisation of African Unity, and because of that, all that we can say here will be in the form of advice. The Charter of the Organisation of African Unity which an hon. Member referred to should be able to sit up, and first of all implement its decision on the question of markets and transport. Unless these things are done very speedily, the idea of having the common market itself is not likely to be a success.

We must not think first of all of having a strong political union before we think of having a strong economic union. But if the two happen to go side by side, or in this case if the economic aspect of it comes first, the political aspect of it is likely to come later. What we want in Nigeria is not so much of aid from the more advanced countries, but we want a lot of trade with them. That trade can only be very profitable if we can jointly fix our own prices in Africa and also stabilize our own products. It will also be profitable to all African countries if, at the same time, they do not compete with one another in the world market.

I think the whole idea of African Common Market which was mentioned last year by the Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech should be given a very serious consideration. It is no use telling them in Geneva all that African countries want. It is no good for the Nigerian Minister of Commerce and Industry to say one thing and the other Trade Ministers from other countries of Africa say another thing. It is high time African Trade Ministers spoke with one voice, especially as far as stabilization of prices of our own tropical products is concerned.

If our prices do not fall below a certain level, we must be sure that the other European countries trading with us will also fix their own prices to reach a certain level and there will be a sort of competition, which is likely to affect the economy of African countries in a good way and not in the bad way. This is because if the demand by the advanced countries for our products is effective, our supplies will always be forthcoming. Provided we do not supply extraordinarily more than what is demanded, our prices will be stable and the rate of our own industrialisation will be faster than what we envisage if each bit of Africa tries to settle on its own.

I beg to second.

**Minister of State** (Alhaji Usumanu Maitanbari): I rise to accept the Motion as it stands on the Order Paper

I hope the Mover is aware of the satisfactory contribution being made by this Government to make the establishment of African Common Market a practical reality.

[ALHAJI USUMANU MAITAMBARI]

The countries of Africa are increasingly becoming aware of the need for closer economic co-operation in order to be able to survive in a world where economic groupings such as the European Economic Community, European Free Trade Area are the order of the day.

In this regard, the Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria has repeatedly stated that, in his view, one of the most effective answers which Africa has to the evolution of the European Economic Community and other organisations of similar nature in other parts of the world is the coming together of African countries to solve the economic problems with which they are faced.

The Government realises that in order to correct the mistakes of the past years, it is necessary that the countries of Africa should first of all realise what these mistakes of the past are. It is known that communication were developed to serve the needs of the former colonial powers. In this connection, experts are now at work to realign the communication system of Africa to serve the best interest of the continent. The same argument is being applied to the localisation of important industries, the communication system, and the whole pattern of trade in the continent.

An African Common Market, as members may be aware, involves much more than the free movement of goods and services. It involves the adoption of measures such as co-ordination of social and economic policies of the African countries to ensure that a market prevails where goods and other factors of production will be able to move freely.

We in this country believe in the solution of most of our problems in a common-sense and practical way. In approaching this problem of an African Common Market, note has to be taken of the difference in outlook on life by the different countries, an outlook engendered by the cultural ties that these countries have had with the European powers. The suspicion and, sometimes, fear that naturally exists between African States, cannot be dismissed with a wave of the hand.

On our part, Nigeria believes more in practical demonstration than in verbal propositions. The problems that confront the establishment of an African Common Market are many and varied. Some of these are:—

(a) The pursuance of different and divergent commercial policies by African countries;

(b) The preponderant reliance on import duties for revenue purposes;

(c) Transport and communications;

(d) Artificial trade barriers put up originally by the former colonial powers and still maintained;

(e) The little trade existing between African countries both in primary commodities and in manufactured or semi-manufactured products.

The Government of the Federation of Nigeria has begun to clear the ground by taking steps to negotiate trade agreements with other African states such as Niger, Dahomey and Togo. An agreement has already been signed with the Federal Republic of Cameroun. Telecommunication link has been opened between Nigeria on the one hand and Niger Republic, Dahomey, and the Federal Republic of the Cameroun, Guinea, and Congo (Leopoldville) on the other hand.

Nigeria participates fully with other countries in promoting organisations formed for the purpose of strengthening the influence of the producers in maintaining better prices for their commodities.

The Council is aware that the Organisation for African Unity, recognising the complexities involved in any type of economic proposition, has set out among its specialised agencies, an Economic and Social Commission whose functions include the examination of questions relating to economic and social matters affecting member states and the promotion of Inter-African co-operation in economic and social fields. Very recently, this commission examined the question of Free Trade Area between African States and the establishment of a Common External Tariff.

Our Government has been very actively engaged in this preliminary exercise. It will thus be seen that the Government is doing all in its power to facilitate the establishment of an African Common Market. In this task, as in other exercises undertaken by the Government, the motto has always been "to work in close harmony with other countries." The Government is always bearing in mind the fact that all countries, great or small, are equal in

House of Representatives Debates

1885

[Overhead Bridge along

7 APRIL 1964

Western Avenue]

1886

status and that the strength of Africa lies in the unity of her states.

Sir, this is but a brief account of what the Government is doing in order to hasten the day when Africa will have a Common Market. In this exercise, Nigeria needs the prayer and willing co-operation of every citizen.

I beg to move.

*Whereupon the Minister of State (Alhaji Hashimu Adaji) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.*

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

*Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, That this House notes with great satisfaction the stand of the Prime Minister on the question of Great Britain's entry into the European Common Market and urges him to take all necessary action that will lead to the formation of an African Common Market.*

OVERHEAD BRIDGE ALONG THE WESTERN AVENUE

**Mr D. Senu-Oke** (Badagry) : I beg to move,

That, in view of the frequent occurrence of motor accidents along Western Avenue, this House urges the Federal Government to give immediate consideration to the construction of an overhead bridge at a suitable point along this road in order to reduce the death toll there.

The Motion does not call for a lengthy debate. I will, therefore, endeavour to present my case in a very brief way.

The road now called Western Avenue is a Trunk "A" road. This road passes through the middle of Surulere, now known as New Lagos, where the whole of Central Lagos Slum victims were re-housed by the Federal Government or its agents, the Lagos Executive Development Board. It is on record that these victims were strongly opposed to their removal to New Lagos, but being that they had no alternative, they were forced to obey the orders of the Government, notwithstanding the inconveniences they had to face.

The Western Avenue became so popular for its shortness to and from Lagos that there is

always heavy traffic on this road in the early hours of the day.

The siting of two schools—the Government Demonstrative School and the Baptist Day School, with a total of 1,000 and 500 pupils respectively, adds to the congestion on this road.

On the other side of Western Avenue too, there is the Salvation Army School with about one thousand five hundred pupils. Seeing is believing. The traffic jam between 7 a.m. and 8.30 a.m. and also between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. completely prevents the school children and pedestrians from crossing the Western Avenue from one side to the other.

In order to buttress my argument further, I have to point out that the Lagos City Council has built markets at Gbaja and Ojuelegba very near Tejuoso Street. These markets are very near Western Avenue. It is very difficult for housewives to cross to Western Avenue when they are going to the markets. It is unfortunate that the poor inhabitants of New Lagos and the suburbs are subjected to this plight.

There are no traffic signs to indicate the speed limit of the vehicles plying this area. People just drive as they like on this road because of the obvious fact that the road is very smooth and long. Drivers run at any speed ; they are not bothered at all.

The only dangerous spot is the Bus Stop facing Hogan Bassey Crescent and it is the central zone of frequent motor accidents. The most pathetic accidents on this spot are the merciless crushing of school children to death. I was an eye-witness of numerous motor accidents at this spot. The Police have the total number of accidents on this road. It is a pity that I cannot say the exact number of accidents that have happened along the Western Avenue.

I had a personal experience of this accident. Some time ago a friend who had a case in court came to me and asked me to help him brief a lawyer to defend him in a case. I asked this my friend to proceed to the court immediately and that I was coming to meet him in the court with the lawyer. He left me and a few minutes later, I was informed that this man met with a motor accident in an attempt to cross the Western Avenue road.

[MR SENU-OKE]

This young man who was about twenty-eight years old lost his right arm in this accident. The Nigeria Traffic Police failed completely to do justice in this instance. I am not going to discuss this further as the matter is still pending in court.

Several people especially the parents of school children who had motor accidents along this Western Avenue suffered great loss without adequate compensation. This is not good.

A few months ago, as a result of much pressure, the Police started to send women police constables to this spot where accidents happen every now and then to pass the school children during heavy traffic congestion. In any case, this is not a regular routine. These police women arrive at the spot late or leave the spot too early; at times, they will not turn up at all. This has happened on several occasions. The posting of women police constables to this spot is not the solution.

As a result of these happenings, I therefore suggest that an overhead bridge be built at this spot like the ones built at Idunmota, Iddo and Otto near Ebute Metta. There is nothing new about this. After all, it is not expensive. It will only save the lives of the inhabitants of this area, particularly the school children. These school children are the leaders of tomorrow. Some of them will be doctors, lawyers, engineers, businessmen, ministers of religion and of state. Why should we not try our possible best at the expense of the State to preserve their dear lives?

I am sure that no Member of this House will speak against this Motion. We are not happy about the frequent motor accidents along this Western Avenue and also on other roads. In these circumstances, I therefore commend the Motion to the House.

I beg to move.

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie (Enugu):** I beg to second this Motion which is a sympathetic one.

Anything done by our Government to save the lives of our people is not too much. In this particular Western Avenue, there is much congestion on both sides of the road. There is Workers' Estate very near this Western Avenue where many workers live. There are several schools on both sides of the road and

school children cross from one side to the other. These things have made the place to be a very, very dangerous area for the traffic.

In addition, you have a long line of motor cars and lorries passing through the same road. Naturally, with the increase in population in Lagos, it is very necessary, in order to save the lives of our people, to construct an overhead bridge at this spot. It is very simple. It will not cost very much but it will save a lot of lives. This Motion requires a sympathetic consideration of the Government.

I beg to second.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada):** I am in sympathy with the Mover and Seconder of this Motion. But I have some explanation to make on what the plans of the Federal Government are with regard to the Western Avenue.

If Members examined their copies of the Estimates they would have found that the Western Avenue is going to be improved so that a dual carriage way can be constructed along the whole length of it. As a matter of fact right from the beginning, when we were constructing this road, we acquired enough land and we also prepared the base course for a dual carriage way. What is now being used is just one-half of the road. Negotiations are now going on with contractors and we hope they will soon be able to sign a contract to start the work.

When the road is completed it will consist of four lanes; two lanes on either side. It will also have cyclists' tracks as well as pedestrians' tracks.

The question of accidents on the road, I will not accept, is entirely due to the inadequacy of the road. The causes of road accidents are many and varied. Drivers themselves contribute to them. Sometimes they are not very careful. The mechanical condition of vehicles is also another contributory factor to the causes of accidents. It is true that at times also the inadequacy of design of roads can cause accidents. Our hope is that when the road is properly constructed, so that drivers do not have to vie with each other on overtaking or try to get at one point all at the same time, the blame attributable to the inadequacy of the road will be removed.

Our traffic accidents record shows—the Mover of the Motion said he did not have

time to get the figures—that there is an average of six accidents per year for a hundred thousand vehicles a mile. I can hear the Member contradicting me. What he is saying is not correct. He has not got the figures with him. The one I am quoting from is the official figure which I am giving him. Six accidents per year for a hundred thousand vehicles a mile.

In any case, when we shall be constructing the other half of the road, adequate arrangements are going to be made to allow for the crossing of pedestrians ; school children inclusive.

The construction of an overhead bridge is not always an answer to road accidents. How many overhead bridges are we going to construct and at what points ? Overhead bridges are not cheap to construct. Sometimes they can be a costly affair. It might be that the provision of pedestrian or zebra crossings at regular points, and with police supervision at times, will serve the purpose much better than overhead bridges. But as the Motion asks that Government should give consideration to the construction of overhead bridges, I am prepared to accede to this. When the time comes, and when we find that the provisions we are going to make for pedestrian crossing are no longer adequate, overhead bridges will certainly be constructed.

I am sure that, in view of the explanation I have given, and also in view of the undertaking I have given to the Mover and Seconder of the Motion—that the road will be improved and that adequate provision for pedestrian crossing will be made—the Mover will see it fit to withdraw the Motion.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) :** I am very pleased to note that the Minister of Works is aware of the importance of having good roads, especially in the Capital. Lagos being the capital—not only the political capital but also the commercial capital of the nation—it is important that there should be very good roads in the Capital.

The particular road which is the subject matter of this Motion is one that is particularly crowded. I am glad to know that the Minister has told the House that the Government have enough land there ready on which to construct

another pair of lanes. But I must say that it is not enough to have a pair of lanes on either side.

There should be three lanes on either side of the road. This is because if you have only two there can be no overtaking, especially if one car stops. If there are three lanes then a car can overtake even if a car stops on one of the lanes.

If the Minister looks at this properly he will find that that is the way roads are constructed in important capitals of the world. At least three lanes on either side for a through flow of traffic.

The question of overhead bridges, I agree with the Minister, is not the answer to this problem. But if we have enough lanes and the cars pass through, and there are zebra crossings where pedestrians can cross, that will be the solution.

Farther down the continuation of this road had been the subject matter for a discussion here on overhead bridges. That is the road continuing from the Western Avenue to Apapa. This is a particularly busy road and one of the greatest importance to the business of the nation. I remember that it was rumoured at one time that overhead bridges were going to be constructed at the level-crossing as well as at junction near the *Seven Up* factory.

**Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada :** I am sure I can satisfy the request of the Member for Egba East. I purposely left that out because it is not included in the Motion. Part of the road known as the Western Avenue does not include that. Certainly it is in the programme to continue the construction of the dual-carriage way from Western Avenue right up to Point Road in Apapa. It is also in the programme to construct a fly-over at the lilly pond and railway crossing.

We are also making special arrangement at the *Seven Up* junction where there is provision being made for a fly-over which unfortunately we are not going to construct fully during the present programme. We are going to construct only part of it, which we hope will cater for all the traffic until the other part is completed when funds are available.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji :** I thank the Minister for giving this encouraging explanation. I would like to add, however, that last year the Minister

House of Representatives Debates

1897

[Flood Commissions]

7 APRIL 1964

[Flood Commissions]

1898

**The Deputy Speaker :** I press upon the hon. Member the need for keeping strictly within the scope of relevance, and I hope he will co-operate.

**Mr Chiedozie :** The Minister read only a part of the Motion. The Motion actually says, "That, in view of the frequency of floods on our highways and their adverse effect on the economy of this country,....."

If our highways are damaged and transport is brought to a stand-still, definitely our economic structure is affected. In fact, in every part of the world, transportation is the backbone of the national economy. If our highways are always flooded and naturally all the areas surrounding these highways, the welfare of the people of this country and the national economy will definitely be jeopardised.

I am, therefore, advocating that since we have roads all over the country, it behoves the Federal Government to be aware that the effects of floods on the roads are indirectly jeopardising the national economy. What I also say is that, in view of damages occurring to people and properties, there must be a relief fund to those who suffer.

After all, the flood that happened at Ikorodu is still fresh in our memories. Very many people at Ikorodu suffered. This is not a question of damages to the roads alone, but also of their effects on the economy. If our roads are damaged and people's properties are damaged along with them, and nothing is done, then we must speak and ask that something must be done.

The Minister has been misunderstanding what my Motion is. The bed-rock of it all is the effects of these floods on the roads and the indirect effects on our economy. I, therefore, feel that there is every necessity for this flood commission to be appointed. I have already enumerated its functions, but it is for the Minister to know whether I have gone wide of the mark or not.

I am appealing to our Minister of Works that we want a method or a means whereby relief can be given to those indirectly affected by the dangers of flooding our roads. People who have not seen a road flooded might not appreciate the degree of devastation being carried out on neighbouring settlements. There was a flood that occurred even at Victoria

Island in Lagos some time ago. Normally we have roads in Lagos, but the effects of the floods were more on human lives and their properties than on the roads.

My Motion does not confine itself squarely to the over-flooding of roads, and roads alone. A road, by definition, does not mean only the tarred surface; it includes the foot-paths and the surrounding bushes, and in some cases, houses along the road. I am, therefore, talking of the humanitarian aspects of the consequences of having our roads flooded.

After all, the flood commission I am advocating is not going to be an engineer to repair a bridge or mend damaged roads.

*Sitting suspended: 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed: 3.00 p.m.*

**Mr Chiedozie :** What I was saying before sitting was suspended was on the consequences of floods and the necessity for appointing a Flood Commission in order to assess damages done and the relief to be given to those who are unfortunate to be affected.

Flooding on the highways in Nigeria is causing a lot of anxiety to the people of this country. Statesmen in this country have been thinking very seriously of what efforts the Government can make to see that certain measures are taken to combat the evils of flooding on our highways and the measures to be taken as a whole to help those who are affected.

I must continue to hammer on this because a lot of harm occurs when the roads are flooded, so the Minister should not take it that I am just talking about the flooding of our roads and that is all. I am talking about the flooding as constituting a great danger to the people of this country, the consequences of flooding and the setting up of a Flood Commission with wide powers to enable it handle this matter effectively.

Since the country is a Federal State, it is necessary that the Commission should have powers to look after all the Regions, wherever a flood occurs. If possible the Commission should include representatives from the Regions. This is what happens all over the world because this is an act of God. Nobody causes the floods; it is natural, but when a flood

[MR CHIEDOZIE]

occurs the responsibility should not be allowed to be carried by a particular Region, or a particular town or place.

It is quite clear that our economic progress will not be working very satisfactorily if we continue to allow people to suffer because of floods. If help is offered people will feel that the Government is aware that this thing is causing a lot of disaster to them and to their property. Those who are always driving their cars, lorries and other vehicles suffer particularly as a result of floods on our roads. The traffic on our roads whether cars, persons, animals or anything also suffer as a result of floods.

I know the Minister of Works may say that this Motion is so wide that he is not to be responsible, but I think it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Works because everything coming out of it comes out of the fact that the roads are in a bad state. In addition, transportation in the rainy seasons is a risky venture; our roads are always very rough. Ikorodu road has been a very good example well known to all of us. We know that everybody suffered as a result of the flood that occurred on that road last year.

People's lives are always in danger whenever there is a flood. If they know that the roads are constantly flooded so that if people get accidents the Government will not come to their rescue, they are afraid to travel because they are not safe. In these circumstances, people do not even have the audacity to go on the roads and they are forced to stop travelling. These are the things that the commission should look into—how to improve the conditions of our roads and how to see that help is given to those who are affected by the floods.

I am not saying that the Commission should be concerned with the construction of roads as such. The Ministry of Works is concerned with this engineering side of the matter. The Commission will be concerned with the humanitarian side of it—when the floods affect human beings, the lives of the people, their property and so on. So, the hon. Minister should view this matter with particular consideration. He comes from Northern Nigeria and he knows very well that in the rainy seasons, disaster always occurs on the roads in the North.

The country, therefore, is watching the Minister to know his reaction to this Motion.

All over the country people feel that the Federal Government should come to the rescue of people who are badly affected by floods on our roads, wash-outs and so on. The safety of our roads during the rainy seasons is a primary necessity and the battle against the menace of floods requires a concerted action by the Minister and the Government. The matter requires a dynamic approach and if the Commission is set up then the Minister has done something commendable for the nation. The Government also will win the universal commendation of the people if this Commission is set up and through it find ways and means of alleviating the sufferings of those who are affected directly or indirectly by floods on our highways.

I beg to move.

**Chief M. W. Ubani** (Aba Central): I rise to second this Motion so ably proposed by my hon. Friend, the Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*). The Motion to my mind is not controversial at all and nobody should read political motive into it.

I think both sides of the House will appreciate the importance of establishing a Flood Commission to safeguard, and be a watch-dog over our roads and assist the Ministry of Works. It is not intended to oppose the efforts of the Ministry of Works; rather it is intended to strengthen the arms of the Ministry and, in fact, to help in detecting from time to time when floods have actually created any havoc.

Every part of the Federation has been affected by floods at one time or another and, therefore, I feel this is a Motion which is quite timely and in order. It is to safeguard against the occurrences of the past years, as my hon. Friend the Mover of the Motion has ably cited. In fact, I was a victim during last year's floods when I had to be submerged into the stream with my car and everything and it cost me nearly £120 to get the car merely going again. It was really a blessing that my life was saved.

With reference to the economy of the country, no one knows when these forces of nature really come forth and, therefore, it should be the duty of the Flood Commission to help, to give suggestions and make proposals which the Ministry of Works will bring up to the Cabinet for implementation after it has examined the wisdom of whatever the Commission has recommended.



House of Representatives Debates

1901

[Flood Commissions]

7 APRIL 1964

[Flood Commissions]

1902

The economy of the country is definitely affected by the nature of our roads. In fact, the economic development of this country will suffer except we have very good roads. But when floods are allowed to cause so much havoc to our roads from time to time, surely the users of the roads—the pedestrians, the traders and the motorists—are bound to suffer and this in turn affects, to a very large extent, the economic development of the country.

I therefore think that the Ministry of Works, particularly the Minister of Works himself, will be well advised to realise the importance of setting up this Commission which will help to safeguard the lives of our people, the loss of property and money, and in fact help to put an end to all other sorts of sufferings that our people had had to go through in the past as a result of heavy floods.

We read in the newspapers sometime ago that work was progressing on the Lagos-Ikorodu road. This endeavour to improve the condition of that road is quite appreciated. I think that as departmental Boards and high powered committees are set up to look into different matters in the different ministries, there certainly would be no harm whatever if, realising what important role it would play in helping us to guard against the disastrous effects of floods in this country, the Flood Commission is set up immediately.

We need qualified people from abroad to help in the proper construction of our roads in this country. The work is rather too gigantic for the Ministry of Works alone to face and the setting up of this Commission will rather ease the work of the Ministry. It will be the duty of the commission to advise, from time to time, the Ministry of Works on what steps are necessary to be taken in order to improve the conditions of our roads in this country and make these roads strong enough to be able to shoulder the very heavy burden of carrying out our economic development programme.

I am sure that every Member of this House will commend this Motion. The Motion is non-controversial and is not intended to weaken the power of the Ministry of Works but rather to strengthen the work of this Ministry and make people feel more strongly the efforts of the Government of the day to better their lots.

There was an incident in my area last year when the road that runs through my town

started eroding from one end as a result of a very heavy flood. The flood continued for such a long time that nearly thirty houses costing nothing less than £30,000 each got sunk into the abyss of the earth and were completely swallowed up. Up till now, nothing has been done to find out how much damage was done by the flood and in what way the victims could be helped. At a certain time when I was going home from here I met with a heavy flood in Ibadan which nearly devastated the whole of that old city.

We cannot argue that these matters concern only our highways. We should also remember that some towns have these highways cutting right through them and whatever happens to these highways in any of such towns will automatically affect the people and make their lives miserable. I therefore think that this is a matter which deserves very serious consideration. Everyone of us is a living witness of the disastrous effects that floods can have and this same problem was mentioned in the Northern House of Assembly sometime ago. Though the Motion appears a simple one yet I think it is an important one in so much as it affects the lives and safety of property and money of the people of this country individually and the economy of the nation in general. I therefore feel that this Motion should be commended to this House.

I beg to second.

**Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada :** I would like to start my comments on this Motion by saying that the terms of the Motion are not as wide as its Mover advocated in his speech. The Motion calls for the setting up of a Flood Commission because of the frequency of floods on our highways and their adverse effects on the economy of this country. I am commenting on the Motion because highways are specifically mentioned.

The Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*) who moved the Motion and the Member for Aba Central (*Chief Ubani*) who seconded it are, of course, both aware that already the Governments of the Federation are working hard towards the solving of the problem of flood disasters in this country. In our Six-Year Development Programme we have plans to reconstruct certain of our Trunk A roads and to rehabilitate some others. The whole aim of this is to strengthen these roads and make them more motorable throughout the year. It is

[ALHAJI INUWA WADA]

also the intention of my Ministry that wherever we see a possibility of a road failing as a result of flood or any other cause, such a road is included in our reconstruction or rehabilitation programme.

It is true that flood affects some of our roads in various parts of the Federation. What is actually responsible for the conditions of such roads is lack of adequate funds. If the funds are available roads can be constructed in such a way that all foreseeable floods will not be able to damage them. But such roads, I need not tell Members, cost a lot of money. Certain parts of Nigeria are low-lying and therefore to avoid floods in such areas roads must be constructed on high embankments and bridges and culverts built in very many places. These we are trying to do as much as funds at our disposal permit.

Already, as I have earlier stated, the Federal Government and the Regional Governments are pursuing this scheme. Another important step which we are taking is to ensure that we have a very alert staff which will be constantly on the look out for failures on our roads or wherever there may be possibilities of failures owing to flooding or excessive rains. This, I am glad to say, the Regional Governments who act as our agents are doing for us.

The Mover of the Motion started by citing other countries as examples where steps have been taken to guard against floods on their highways. I think he first mentioned Alaska, but if he would allow me to point it out, the disaster in Alaska was not due to flooding but was caused by earthquake. He then proceeded to name a whole lot of other countries. It is all very well to compare Nigeria with some of the advanced countries in the world, but Members should realise that Nigeria is not yet as rich as those countries. There are certain things which, though very desirable at the moment, we simply cannot afford.

To form a Flood Commission which the Member for Enugu is advocating will involve not only my Ministry and other Ministries in the Federal Government but also all the Regional Governments because here he wants us to be responsible not only for damages to our highways but also for any loss sustained by anybody directly or indirectly, as a result of flood. This is very, very wide and I am afraid I cannot accept it.

The assurance I can give to the Mover and

the Seconder of the Motion is that we shall continue to be vigilant and we shall also continue with our programme of reconstruction and rehabilitation of our highways as much as funds permit. With this programme, I am sure a time will come when damage to highways due to floods will be something of a very, very negligible occurrence.

Although I know that some Members would like me to go on talking, I do not think there is any need for me to say any more to the Mover of this Motion; but I am afraid I have to say that I am opposed to the Motion as it stands.

**Mr Chiedozie** : I think the Minister has given me satisfactory explanation. I just wish to withdraw the Motion and wait for another occasion. Let us wait and see whether other calamities will occur and I will bring the Motion again. I beg to withdraw the Motion.

**Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada** : I am very grateful to the Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*). I should like to amend my plea and say that I beg the Mover of this Motion to withdraw it.

*Motion by leave withdrawn.*

#### MAIDUGURI AIRPORT

**M. Albatan Yerima Balla** (Adamawa North West) : I beg to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper and say that the Motion is non-controversial. The text of the Motion is as follows :

*That this House calls upon the Federal Government to enlarge and improve Maiduguri Airport so that it may serve as an airlink between Nigeria and Middle East countries.*

Sir, Maiduguri Airport was used during the war from 1941 to 1945 by the British Army and the United States Army. It is very important that this Federal Government should enlarge the Airport because if it is enlarged, it will serve between Middle East countries and other African countries like Chad Republic, Central African Republic, Cameroun Republic and Niger Republic.

Maiduguri is the capital of Bornu Province. From Maiduguri to Chad Republic by air is sixty-five miles. Then from Maiduguri to the Airport in Garua in the Federal Republic of Cameroun is 120 miles by air. From Maiduguri to Bangui in the Central African Republic is 265 miles and from Lagos to Maiduguri by air is 875 miles.

For this reason I wish the Federal Government to consider seriously what happened two weeks ago when our troops were being sent to Tanganyika. When they started from Kano Airport to pass through Khartoum, the plane developed engine trouble and they wanted to land at Fort Lamy but the authorities over there refused and since there is no other international airport around they had to return to Kano. But if Maiduguri Airport had been enlarged, they should have landed there because it is only sixty-five miles from Fort Lamy as I have said before.

There are favourable conditions in Maiduguri. Maiduguri is the capital of Bornu Province and this airport was established during the Lugard regime in 1906. It was removed from Kukawa which was the first capital of Bornu Province, when it was conquered by the Arabs and later by the British and the French Army. But over-draught drove them from this country. It was after this that Maiduguri was established as the capital. The area of Bornu is 41,000 square miles and the population of Bornu according to the last census is 3½ million. The population of Maiduguri alone is 110,000.

Now, there is a railway line running from Gombe to Maiduguri and if there is an international airport added to this, there will be free movement, not only between the important towns in Nigeria, but also between our neighbouring countries. For these reasons I am appealing to the Minister of Aviation to help in the enlargement of this airport. At present we have only got two international airports in the country; one at Kano and the other at Ikeja. If we have another one in Maiduguri, it will help this country both economically and strategically because if anything happens as the one I referred to earlier on, we might meet with disaster before our planes can fly back to Kano or Ikeja.

Now, I come to another point. When the British were serving in that place from 1941 to 1945, there was no international airport but the one in Kano which was established for military purposes. The other international airport in Africa then was in the Central African Republic, in Brazzaville, which was serving the French Army under President de Gaulle. During this time, the Bornu airport was very useful in the struggle against the Nazi regime

during the Second World War and it enabled the Western world to conquer Germany.

For these reasons I am appealing to the Federal Government to return the prestige of Bornu to it by establishing an international airport there which will serve this country and our neighbouring African countries.

I beg to move.

**Mr D. D. Dimka** (Angas) : I rise to second the Motion which has been so ably moved. The Mover of the Motion has covered so many grounds so I am only left with a few points to make. When one looks at the Motion as it stands, one sees that the scope of debate on this Motion has been narrowed down by the wording of the Motion itself. That in itself, I think, is a credit to the Mover.

It is regrettable that when one goes through the list of names which have been listed for airport improvement, one finds that Maiduguri Airport has not been included. Yet we are going to spend an enormous sum of money on the development and improvement of other airports in the country. I think this amounts to cheating the Maiduguri Airport. It must have its proper share.

The position of the Maiduguri Airport is such that can attract international flights because as we can remember, our pilgrims, when going to Mecca or returning, can land there; and also, as the Mover has said, this Airport situated at Maiduguri borders Chad and the Cameroun Republics.

It is understood that some sort of smuggling goes on along these borders. I think if this airport is enlarged and improved, the Customs Officers will be in a better position to combat the smuggling.

I stand to be corrected but I want to say that it was once declared by the Government of this Federation that the Maiduguri airport should be one of the international airports in the country. Nearly all the requirements needed for a full-fledged international airport are found there.

The aerodrome is even bigger than the Kano Airport, but what happened after independence was that the Government started to forget this useful airport. In fact, it has not been using it as it used to. We also know that this aerodrome is one of the best any country can boast of.

[MR DIMKA]

One hon. Member said, during the course of his speech, that the distance between Lagos and Maiduguri and that between Kano and some other places around Maiduguri is great. So, we cannot say that Lagos airport or Kano airport can possibly do the work of Maiduguri aerodrome. Therefore, it is important that the Government should look into this and make it possible for us to continue to use this aerodrome.

I need not belabour the issue because the fact that the Minister of Aviation has not filed an Amendment to this Motion is a clear indication that the Government will accept it.

I beg to second.

**The Minister of Aviation** (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe): I have listened very sympathetically to the arguments adduced by both the Mover of the Motion and the Secunder. I want to assure the Mover that what he wants, and what he wants to achieve, is already what the Government is doing.

I know the Maiduguri airport myself and feel that a very great deal has been done there during the war and that it is important for such an airport to be kept up. It is the intention of the Government to do so.

But the aerodromes and airports by themselves alone cannot determine what the country would like to do. Very much depends upon the traffic which passes through them. It is already an international airport so that what the hon. Member is trying to achieve has already been achieved because it is an alternative airport to Kano.

In other words, if by any chance any aeroplane cannot land in Kano and it wants an alternative airport, it will land at Maiduguri airport. It serves as an alternative airport and it provides the necessary gateway to traffic departing or entering into Nigeria from the East.

The size and capacity of the airport is sufficient to permit its use by all international flights likely to require it now and in the foreseeable future. In any case, the amount of traffic passing through Maiduguri is, at the moment, very very small.

We hope that the idea which is now being developed from the commercial side—that is of transporting meat from Maiduguri to Lagos—if this commercial venture becomes

a very great success, this success will make it possible for Maiduguri airport to increase in stature and in importance. The importance is already there, and because what the Mover of the Motion is asking the Government to do is being done, I do not see why we should duplicate what is already done. It is for this reason that I say that the Government is very very sympathetic but cannot accept the Motion, not because of want of merit, but because it is already doing what the Mover wants it to do.

Therefore, I oppose the Motion most sympathetically.

**M. Albatan Yerima Balla** : I beg to withdraw the Motion, Mr Speaker.

*Motion by leave withdrawn.*

#### GEOLOGICAL MAP OF NIGERIA

**Mr D. N. Chukwu** (Awgu North) : I beg to move—

“That, in order to tap the mineral resources of the country fully, this House calls on the Government to invite or establish a team of expert geologists and surveyors to survey and prepare a new Geological Map of the Republic.”

I am fully aware of the hard work which the Geological Department has been doing. I am also aware that the Minister of Mines and Power, Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule, is one of the best and capable Cabinet Ministers we are proud to have. We know him as an intelligent chap and that he is very efficient in that Ministry.

I am fully aware that the Geological Department is doing the work but I just want to urge the Government to pay particular attention and provide more money in order that the Geological Department should be able to carry out an up-to-date geological map of the Federation.

No nation will ever claim to have completed the geological analysis of its mineral deposits but it can claim to have had some satisfaction. The United States of America and the United Kingdom have been known throughout the world as highly industrialised countries but they cannot claim to have completed their geological analysis, how much less a young country like Nigeria.

I want to impress it upon the House that the Motion does not seek to condemn the good work being done by the Geological Department.

*House of Representatives Debates*

1909

[*Geological Map of Nigeria*]

7 APRIL 1964

[*Geological Map of Nigeria*]

1910

I am fully aware of it and I know it is not possible for the Geological Department to survey the whole country in one day and prepare a map. They are doing it bit by bit.

The old method of geological survey required a geologist to cover every place in the field on foot. But the scientists have solved this problem by inventing and introducing what is called aero-magnetic geological survey.

This is a quick method of surveying an area by using an air plane which has a mapping equipment and ink to mark areas where deposits of precious stones, iron and minerals are found. This will help experts eventually to get down to work them out. This method simplifies the work of geologists because it helps them to know exactly where to hit the nail on the head.

Unlike the previous method of surveying where the geologist had to trek from one corner of the field to the other, this new method helps them to know exactly where to go.

I realise that the Ministry is working very hard but I feel that the Government should give the geological department every amount of equipment to go out in the field

In the first instance Government should provide more money which will enable the Ministry to invite expert geologists and surveyors who will use aero-magnetic methods to survey the whole country.

To my knowledge a big area in Auchi has been mapped by the use of this aero-magnetic method of the geological department under the Canadian International Technical Assistance. This is exactly what I want. The whole country should be surveyed so that we shall be able to discover easily where we have deposits of useful minerals. When there is need for experts to help they will do so.

But we must have our men, Nigerian geologists, who will go out into the field to make analysis and to check deposits of minerals. To this end Nigerians should be trained as geologists.

I have seen the Estimates for 1964-65 that there is no increase in the number either of senior geologists or junior geologists when compared with that of 1963-64. The same numbers of seven for the senior geologists and twenty-two for junior geologists in the 1963-64 estimates still appear in this year's Estimates.

The House will agree with me that there is no improvement in the number of geologists as shown in the Estimates. This is one of the reasons why I want to stress on the Floor of this House that great importance should be attached to the Ministry of Mines and Power.

The Ministry should have sufficient money to train more Nigerians who will survey and prepare up-to-date geological maps. It is not only the training of geologists that matters in that Ministry. There are a lot of things in that Ministry which we do not know. A study of the staff structure of this Ministry will show that the technicians are being neglected. Their number continues to be on the decline year after year.

For instance, last year there were three scientific officers but this year the Estimates show only two. One has been dropped. The number of laboratory technologists has also dropped from three to two. This does not show that there is any good training scheme for the technicians in that Ministry. We should have more Nigerians.

There are only twenty-nine geologists in the Ministry. How can they carry on with the work effectively. Although I have suggested that we should employ the method of aero-magnetic survey, yet twenty-nine geologists only cannot adequately carry on with the work of mapping the whole country, unless there is another provision made elsewhere. I feel this is really too poor. More Nigerians should be trained. That is what I am stressing.

Again, I want geological profession to be made attractive. The workers are always in the bush and in the valleys at the risk of their own lives. But one lamentable thing about the whole thing is that a geologist, who has to be in the bush all the time, is graded equally with a third class clerk in the office who is just a pen-pusher. The little allowance of five shillings given to the geologists decreases as the weeks they work increase—from five shillings to four shillings, then from four shillings to three shillings until after a time nothing is paid to them again as allowance.

We must show that we have respect for the efforts of our technicians and see that they are exempted completely from other methods of paying diminishing allowances. I had been a civil servant and travelled too. I know the sort of difficulties I had with regard to this method. I feel that we should give more

[MR CHUKWU]

recognition to these people by seeing to it that they are well paid.

A man can be compared to an engine which must be well-cared for before it can be expected to work well. Unless we give these people what they require for the proper discharge of their work they will not satisfy the needs of the country.

The old colonial administrators started this very bad system as far as salaries are concerned. In this country the old administrators were heads of departments and they were also the policy making bodies. They made it possible for the administrators and clerks in the offices to be paid higher than the technicians.

The result is that these technicians are forgotten and neglected. They are poorly paid but they are the people who matter.

Looking into the Estimates I found that a senior geologist who is supposed to be in the upper segment is rated £1,500 per annum while a Senior Assistant Secretary in the same Ministry is on £2,290. This is not very encouraging. I would recommend that all the geologists, scientists and laboratory engineers in the Ministry should be started on a salary of not less than £1,500 per annum. This will help them to work very hard.

The clerks should be made to earn less pay and high pay should be given to technicians. It is my considered opinion that our colonial administrators who fixed these high salaries did very badly in giving themselves high salaries. They were responsible for policy making, and when they made these policies, they gave themselves high salaries and started the technicians with very poor salaries.

Some of the clerks get thousands of pounds whereas the technicians who go into the field get meagre remuneration. I think the time has come when we should analyse not how many but how good. I am recommending that something must be done for the technicians.

Hon. Members will agree with me that anything grows well under proper conditions. Our minerals will also grow if tapped under favourable conditions; but the growth of mineral resources is not something that we should count in days or months. It is something that takes years to grow, and in fact it may take as long as two hundred years to grow to its fullest. But if we work to our full

limit we shall have done our best for others to emulate. Thank you.

**Mr N. E. Elenwa** (Ahoada West): I have to second this Motion so ably proposed by my hon. Friend, the Member for Awgu North (*Mr Chukwu*). In fact, the Motion is a very short one and does not need much talking about.

I see that the Mover is only calling upon the Federal Government to tap the mineral resources of the country fully, and the best way to do that is to bring up-to-date our geological map of the Republic. We cannot say that we have not got a geological map of the country. No. But what we want here and what we are asking the Government to do is to let us have an up-to-date geological map of the country so that industrialists will know exactly where to go when they are looking for a particular mineral deposit.

Nigeria is a fast developing country and as such what was done twenty or ten years ago cannot be said to be accurate and up-to-date. In that wise, I fall in line with the Mover of this Motion that it is well overdue and that a more accurate map should be produced.

We know that the Shell Company is prospecting for oil. There are other companies prospecting for oil. If any of these companies comes across any mineral deposit other than oil, they do not care as their main concern is for oil. I am saying that an accurate map will not only be useful for our businessmen but it will also be useful for our school children and teachers.

I beg to second.

**The Minister of Mines and Power** (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule): I am entirely in sympathy with the Mover of the Motion and the Secunder; but I must point out at the same time that while I appreciate the anxiety of the Mover over this, I would like to inform this honourable House that Government is already doing what the Member is asking us to do and in the course of my speech, hon. Members will see how far we have gone in this field, and what we intend to do in the future.

In the Ministry of Mines and Power, we realise the importance of geological mapping and also the importance of mineral survey. It is our intention that we should be ahead of our economic planning with geological information so that whenever Government is ready

to plan the economic development of the country the Ministry will be ready with the data upon which such a development plan will be based.

In the circumstances, therefore, the Ministry has not been sleeping. On the other hand, it has been wide awake, doing everything possible to carry out geological mapping, mineral survey, collecting data and trying as much as possible to bring them up-to-date.

We know that the geological mapping and mineral survey of any country cannot be said to come to an end at any one time as has been rightly said by the Mover; it is a continuous thing. No one country can say at any one time that it has found all the minerals available in that country; it is something that is continuous advice, and we realise also that this is something which needs expert advice.

We have approached several countries in this respect, therefore, and we have submitted several applications. It is therefore my intention to move an Amendment to this Motion in order to make hon. Members realise what we have been doing.

In moving this Amendment, Sir, I would like to inform this honourable House that Government has already prepared a new geological map of Nigeria. The map is a revised edition of the existing geological map of Nigeria and like the former, it has been drawn to the scale of 1 : 2,000,000.

National geological maps like textbooks are not revised at intervals of a few years but rather after a decade or more years during which a substantial fund of knowledge has been accumulated through the patient and painstaking research of geologists.

I am happy to say that this new edition, coming out ten years after the previous one which was issued in 1954, is up-to-date and incorporates all the latest knowledge of the geology of the Republic which the scale of the map permits. The map is now being printed by the Federal Surveys and will be ready for distribution in the near future.

As I hinted earlier on, the amount of information which can be shown on a map is determined by the scale. The scale of 1 : 2,000,000 is a small scale and consequently only the most important aspects of the regional geology can be shown on such a map. However, more detailed maps of various parts of the country

are generally also prepared and published by the Geological Survey. For instance, the scale normally adopted for all the regional systematic geological mapping carried out by the Geological Survey is 1 : 100,000. These maps are generally retained at the Geological Survey branch offices and copies can be provided at cost or consulted there on request. At present, however, with the exception of selected areas of special interest, like the Jos Tin fields, maps on this scale are not generally published. Instead, the information on them is published on the scale of 1 : 250,000 which is convenient and adequate for most general purposes. More detailed maps on larger scales on *ad hoc* investigations are also prepared from time to time and either published by the Geological Survey in their official publications or retained for consultation at its branch offices.

I would like to remind hon. Members that maps prepared and published by the Geological Survey Division of my Ministry are also stocked and sold by the Federal Survey Division of the Federal Ministry of Works and Surveys as well as the Regional Survey Divisions.

To further explain and emphasise the effort which the Government is making in the geological mapping of the country, hon. Members may wish to know that the whole of the Federal Republic is covered by 83 or 1 : 250,000 topographic sheets and that the systematic geological mapping of approximately half of these has been accomplished. Some Members might be tempted to conclude from this that nothing is therefore known of the geology of the remaining half of the country. Far from it. In fact, practically the whole country had been surveyed at one time or the other on a reconnaissance basis so that the general geology is pretty well known. Systematic geological mapping which is now in progress is a continuing effort designed to elaborate and consolidate the existing geological knowledge of the country; it is merely to fill gaps in the overall frame work and not to fill a vast vacuum as some people might imagine.

I would also like hon. Members to realise the nature of this task which is arduous and time consuming, requiring the geologist to walk miles over hill and valley examining every rock exposure carefully and making essential measurements. The time taken to complete the geological mapping of one 1:100,000 sheet, which represents an area of over 1000 square

## [ALHAJI MAITAMA SULE]

miles, varies with the type of country and the complexity of the geology. Under the most favourable conditions it takes from one to two man-years.

It has been Government's experience that applications from technical assistance for regional geological mapping as such do not evoke favourable response, unlike those for mineral exploration surveys. Consequently, we must have to rely on our own Geological survey for this most important work. I have no doubt whatsoever that given adequate funds and staff the Geological Survey will be equal to this task. The number of posts of Geologist was increased, and I agree it was increased in 1961-62. It was increased mainly with this end in view, and, though a number remain unfilled, the number has remained unfilled because Geologists are hard to come by even in the outside world. And not only that, Nigerian students, until quite recently, have not been all that interested in this particular field. But I am glad to inform this honourable House that there are students in the Nigerian Universities (and the number is very encouraging, indeed) who are having interest in this field. In a few years we shall have Nigerian graduates coming out from the Universities, and our difficulty in getting these vacancies filled would then no longer exist. But I am nevertheless satisfied that the Geological Survey Division of my Ministry is making satisfactory progress with this task, not only with regard to its pace but also its quality.

In conclusion, I would like hon. Members to realise that our present dependence on foreign technical assistance for so many of our projects should be looked upon as a temporary phase in our evolution. The ideal which we should all aim at and take steps to achieve in minimum time is for us to sail under our own steam.

I beg to move the Amendment as on the Order Paper.

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

*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, in order to tap the mineral resources of the country fully, this House notes with satisfaction the progress made by the Federal Government to produce new geological maps of the Republic.

## APPROPRIATION (1964-65) BILL

(FOURTH (CONTINUED) ALLOTTED DAY) :

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

*Progress* · HEAD 45—MINISTRY OF HEALTH

*Question proposed, That £5,182,890 for Head 45—Ministry of Health—stand part of the Schedule.*

**The Minister of Health** (Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) : I just want to explain a few points which were raised by the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) last night. One very grave, wrong impression which he created which I would like to correct immediately is that there is no shortage of forks and knives in our hospitals, and it is quite untrue to say that patients eat with their hands in our hospitals. Although those of them who prefer to eat with their hands do so, I know of no contrary indication of people eating with their hands provided their hands are properly washed. But we certainly provide patients in the hospitals with forks and knives, and there are, in fact, millions of our people outside the hospitals who eat with their hands.

One very important point which he made was that there is a severe shortage of equipment in our hospitals, and he did mention that nurses go about in rags. That is quite incorrect. Nurses are issued with three uniforms every year, and this year as soon as these Estimates are passed we hope to be able to issue them with four uniforms instead of three uniforms. It is, in fact, an insult to suggest that our nurses go about in rags, because our nurses are very neat and have been commended by anybody who has had the good fortune to visit our hospitals. I may say that many Members of this House, including the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) are to be seen hanging around the gates of our hospitals waiting to give these nurses lifts which, shows how neat they are.

To come to the serious aspect of the points which were made last night by the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*), and that is the shortage of drugs. I must say straight away that there is no doubt whatsoever



that our hospitals are short of drugs, and I do not think that Members could expect it to be otherwise because I would like Members to recall my statement during the debate of the Second Reading which, with your permission, Sir, I would read to refresh the memory of Members.

*In 1963, the total out-patient attendance in all our hospitals and clinics in Lagos was 127,033. In Lagos General Hospital alone the daily out-patient attendance is over 1,000.*

The significance of these figures is probably lost to Members because, when we have over a million people attending the hospitals surely we have to pay for the drugs used in those hospitals. This does not take account of those patients who are admitted into the hospitals and who are seriously ill and have to be given very expensive medicines. So that to say that the hospital is short of drug is not even reflecting the true situation. And when Members look at the vote for drugs and equipment which is under *Other Charges*, that is Sub-head 11, as the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) has said, they will see that it is £407,200. This sum of money certainly cannot possibly go round the number of patients who flock to our hospitals. There is no doubt whatsoever that our populations are getting more and more aware of the advantages of coming to hospital for treatment. That is why we have this tremendous pressure on the services which are available.

I think we shall be deceiving the people if we pretend that any Government in Africa to-day can provide a comprehensive free medical service for the populations. This is why we proposed measures whereby the patients will share part of the cost of this treatment. But Parliament has not seen it fit to accept these measures. We cannot, therefore, accept the criticisms that the hospitals are short of drugs because if we are to provide the drugs necessary for the hospitals, we shall have to cut down our expenditure on the other services which the Federal Government provides.

The Member for Wudil (*Mallam Abba Yola*) mentioned the fact that we are not doing enough for malaria eradication. Perhaps he was not here when I contributed to the debate on the Second Reading, because I did give in

great detail the measures which the Federal Government is taking in collaboration with the World Health Organisation for the initiation of a world-wide campaign for the eradication of malaria in this country. We have in fact started here in Lagos a malaria eradication scheme.

The Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) mentioned the case of an unfortunate woman who was admitted into the Lagos Island Maternity Hospital and was there for fourteen days and eventually died. The Member did say that in the Regions pregnant women do in fact get much better treatment than they do get in Lagos, and that the incidence of death among pregnant women during child birth in the Regions is almost negligible. I would be very happy indeed to accept this as a fact. But, unfortunately, it is not true because the hon. Gentleman is not in a position to know the true facts. In any case, his judgment must be affected by the fact that his relative who was admitted to the Maternity Hospital died, and this is an emotional thing which cannot really bear true comparison with the actual figures. There is no other place in the whole of Nigeria where it is compulsory that when a person dies you have to get a certificate before you bury him. And that is why it is possible for us here in Lagos to know the number of people who die during child birth and to know also the number of people who die of other conditions. And here in Lagos the maternal mortality rate, I think, is about the best that we have in the whole country. We can only estimate the number of women who die in child birth in the rest of the country. But at least here in Lagos we have the figures. Our comparison of the two figures is quite satisfactory.

But I must admit that here in our hospitals there have been occasions when our doctors have been a little bit lax in paying attention to patients. As far as the conditions under which we work permit us, we are taking disciplinary actions against those doctors. But I must emphasise one point and that is that the disciplinary action which is adequate for other branches of the civil service is completely inadequate for a hospital. The workers in hospital are dealing with matters of life and death, and a mistake made by a person who is working in an hospital may very well result

[CHIEF MAJEKODUNMI] in the death of a patient. So that it is necessary that means should be devised whereby ability and good conduct is rewarded adequately, and at the same time any lapse, callousness or indifference to the needs of the patient is dealt with immediately. But, unfortunately, the very set-up, the civil service set-up, in which we are conducting our work in the hospitals makes it very difficult and tiresome for the officials of the Ministry to discipline some of these people who are not paying attention to the cares of their patients.

**M. Abba Yola (Wudil):** On a point of information, the Minister did not mention anything about the eradication of tuberculosis.

**Chief Majekodunmi:** I shall certainly talk about the eradication of tuberculosis, but I think that I should deal adequately with this very important point to which my attention has been drawn by the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*).

Well, it is not possible to infuse greater efficiency to a machinery which is controlled, as it is by the civil service, particularly when the machinery is dealing with the patients whose lives are very precious indeed. And in extenuation of the doctors who are working in the hospitals, I must point out to the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) that I gave some figures here also on the 25th of March, that in this Island Maternity Hospital there are 50 babies being delivered everyday, which is about 18,000 babies a year. This is a very large number of babies indeed to be delivered by a single hospital, particularly a hospital with 200 beds. And this must impose very heavy strain on the staff of the hospital. I hold no brief for any carelessness which might result in death. In fact, I have made enquiries and I did find that my officials had, in fact, inquired into the death of this woman to whom my Friend referred, and disciplinary action is being taken on those officers who are found to be negligent. Certainly everything that is possible to be done within the context of the civil service is being done. But I must say that it is not possible to get greater efficiency or as much efficiency as we would require if we are not given the control of the hospital as is done in other parts of the world.

I now come to the question of eradication of tuberculosis. I think this Government is

doing more for the control of tuberculosis than any other Government in West Africa. Here, we started the first tuberculosis service in West Africa. It was started in the old days when we had a unitary government and the headquarters of this service was at Ibadan. When there was regionalisation we removed the Specialist Tuberculosis Officer to Lagos. We have been getting very good results which have been copied and broadcast to many tuberculosis workers throughout the world. In fact, one of our Tuberculosis Officers won a special medal which is issued by the Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. And this is one of our workers in the Ministry here.

If Members will look at the Estimates, they will find that we have made a provision for £18,000 to be given to destitute tuberculosis patients. This is to encourage the patients to come for treatment because we have found that patients are inclined to conceal the fact that they have tuberculosis because they know that when this is detected they will be taken away from work, which will mean a loss of income to them. At the same time, if they are infectious cases they will be isolated, which might also affect them adversely socially. So that we have this fund which we give to such patients, which is a very good inducement. Since we started to give money to this type of destitute patients we have been having large numbers of them attending regularly for treatment and cure rate of the disease has greatly increased.

Mr Chairman, this is my reply to the very few criticisms that we have had on this Head.

£5,182,890 for Head 45 — Ministry of Health — ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 46 — MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Question proposed, That £2,825,330 for Head 46 — Ministry of Information — stand part of the Schedule.

**Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East):** I very much regret that the good name of this country is not sufficiently projected abroad. Practically all Nigerian students in Europe and even in other parts of Africa complain bitterly about the type of publicity given to our country. It is in fact almost nil. Rather than talk about Nigeria, students talk about Ghana, Congo and other countries.

One would be surprised, as soon as one leaves this country and goes outside, to observe that

people know very little or nothing about this country. Even as far the Mediterranean country, they know very little about this country, and when one talks of Nigeria, people ask about Ghana. They do not even know how to pronounce the name, and they call it 'Neegheria'. This shows that our publicity media are not doing well at all.

Another aspect of our publicity media which is very regrettable is the type of false voice which our people use in reading our news. We have had very good people or announcers in the past. Some Nigerian voices were even famous, but now we cannot say what has happened to them. I remember a particular young man who was doing very well. He used to cover the news here. While I would not say that the man who is doing it here now is not doing well, I will say that the man I refer to was doing it much better. Whether the Regional Government has absorbed him or not, we cannot say.

I hear some Members talk about *Alao* and *Shakey-Shakey*, and that reminds me that I must make some comments on the programme so styled. It is quite a good programme, but too much of anything is bad. The authorities should try to create some other programmes which would be able to sustain our interests.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): If the Member for Owerri North East (*Mr Ukah*) wants to take up the job, he should apply to Mr Horatio Agedah who is now the Director of News.

**Mr Ukah**: I must say that I do not intend to take up the role of the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) as *Shakey-Shakey*. I only plead that other programmes should be introduced.

Another point I would like to stress is the attitude of the Nigerian Government about the "Jagua Nana" play which, it is being proposed, should be filmed. I raised this as a Parliamentary Question, but we did not reach the question before question time was over, and therefore, to the best of my knowledge, no answer was given.

I do not think that Nigeria compares unfavourably with any other country in the world as far as morality is concerned. Certainly, Nigeria can teach other nations how to maintain sound morals, and any attempt to

portray Nigeria as a morally bankrupt nation should therefore be resented by any patriot in this country.

That book "Jagua Nana" is, as far as I can see—

**Mr G. K. Dada** (Ekiti North West): That play was composed by an Ibo man.

**Mr Ukah**: But I am an Ibo man and that shows that I am sincere in my suggestions.

I hear a Member say that the play 'Yoruba Ronu' was composed by a Yoruba man. I am very grateful for that information, and I insist that when a thing is bad, we have to say so no matter who did it. The play referred to by a Member just now was not written by an Ibo man, but by a Yoruba man. We should not cover up faults merely because our favourite made a mistake. The more we cover up an evil, the more we should take the blame for such faults. It is our duty to make those who do evil see their mistakes.

If the writer thinks that his book is making interesting reading, we should point it out that this may spoil the good name of Nigeria. As far as we are aware, Nigeria is not a nation that can trifle with its good name, or allow its morals to degenerate, and I therefore strongly suggest that the Government should ban the filming of this play.

I wish also to say that it is the duty of the Ministry of Information to be up and doing in taking up things on which information is urgently needed. The Ministry should not wait indefinitely. I am sorry that the Minister of Information is not here, and I wonder if the Parliamentary Secretary to that Ministry is here either. When the nation is anxious to get information about the state of affairs in this country, the Minister should not take a back seat.

**Mr Odulana**: On a point of order, the Member for Owerri North East (*Mr Ukah*) has suggested that the play "Jagua Nana" should not be filmed. I wonder why people on that side of the House started to yell and hoot when the Western Nigeria Government banned the play 'Yoruba Ronu'. We agreed that "Jagua Nana" should be banned because—

**The Chairman**: This is not a point of order.

**Mr Ukah :** The hon. Member is very fond of raising irrelevant points of order. Surely, the play he referred to was not banned by this Government : it must have been banned somewhere else in Yorubaland, and we are not aware of it.

**The Chairman :** If the hon. Member has no more points to make, I shall call on another Member to speak.

**Mr Ukah :** I am trying to buttress the points I was making that the Minister of Information should be up and doing, and should be present in the House to hear our comments. We want a radical change in that Ministry. It will be in the interest of everybody, including himself.

The Voice of Nigeria must be adequately heard abroad. There is no other country in Africa whose voice should be more clearly heard than that of Nigeria, and I therefore recommend a drastic change for the better.

**Mr J. M. Damla (Pankshin West) :** I rise to support this Head. Although the Minister is not in the Parliament now, I shall still make my points.

In the first place, I have to register my protest because this country is not being adequately publicised abroad. We want our Nigerian Commissions and Consular Offices to be supplied with our latest pictures. In some of these offices, pictures of British people are still being used.

Another thing I want to talk about is television. I am not interested in television myself. I hear some Members ask why I am not interested, and I will tell them that television sets are not for the common men. They are too expensive. Some sets cost as much as £50 and £70.

If we want our people to enjoy the use of television, then it must be used in the education of our children and the Government must control the price of the sets so that our people may find it easier to purchase them.

Even our cinema houses show foreign supporting films. There is no reason why films on Nigerian leaders should not be shown as supporting firms in our cinema houses. We do not want to be seeing foreign films every-time.

On any special occasion when a Head of State or Government is visiting this country,

we always see our cinema cameramen and some of the staff of the Federal Film Unit running around taking pictures. We want to know what they have been doing with the photographs they take.

The cinema houses in Lagos and other big towns in the country should be told to show the films occasions at least as supporting films. We want to see our leaders and one of the ways by which we can project our leaders is by allowing the people in the Regions and in the outside world to see them as they perform their state duties.

**Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu North) :** On a point of information, may I inform the House that the Minister of Information and his Parliamentary Secretary are not here and there is no Minister taking care of the points raised by Members.

**The Minister of Labour (Chief J. M. Johnson) :** I am sorry about this but I want to assure the House that ministerial responsibility is jointly held by all the Ministers. As long as a Minister is in the House, hon. Members can be sure that their complaints are not falling into deaf ears. Hon. Members can be sure that the points they have raised will be replied to.

**M. Ibrahim Muku (Bida West) :** I do not agree with what the Minister of Labour has just told the House. Some Ministers allow their time to be taken by party squabbles and as a result they have little or no time for the business of the House. I think this should stop.

**Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt) :** May I say that the absence of the Minister of Information in this House this afternoon is an abuse of parliamentary privilege. All the hon. Members who have spoken this afternoon are not going to receive replies to the points they have raised.

I therefore move that the debate on Head 46—Ministry of Information—be deferred until Sunday.

**The Chairman :** I would not like to defer this Motion on the ground that the Member for Port Harcourt (*Mr Okay*) has given. The Ministers that are in the House are capable of replying to the points raised.

**Mr Damla :** The last point I would like to speak on is the trouble created by the newspapers in this country. The newspapers in this country should make sure that they check their news-items before they publish.

The newspapers are the people causing trouble in this country by knocking the heads of our leaders together. I agree that no country can be well publicised except through its newspapers and other media of information but I would warn that if any newspaper refuses to co-operate with the Government it should be banned.

There is nothing stopping us from controlling our newspapers. The newspapers should co-operate with the Government or be controlled.

I beg to support.

£2,825,330 for Head 46—Ministry of Information—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 47.—INTERNAL AFFAIRS

£313,390 for Head 47—Ministry of Internal Affairs ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 48.—PRISONS

£1,358,990 for Head 48—Prisons—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 49.—JUSTICE

£312,390 for Head 49—Ministry of Justice—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 50.—LABOUR

Question proposed, That £784,730 for Head 50—Ministry of Labour—stand part of the Schedule.

**Mr I. O. Chikelu (Udi Central) :** The Ministry of Labour is not a Department that should be skipped. I have some points to bring to the notice of the Minister of Labour and fortunately the Minister is here.

I am not happy about the inefficiency at our Labour Exchanges particularly in the Regions. The Labour Exchange in Lagos may be doing well I do not know, but I know that in the Regions the Ministry of Labour through the Labour Exchanges are supposed to recruit candidates for employment for the Regional Ministries.

In the Regions the Ministries are doing the work of the Labour Exchanges and nepotism is being practised. Applicants are employed to do jobs for which they are not qualified because they are the relatives of the people on top.

This country cannot produce a team of happy employees until the workers are satisfied and until only qualified and efficient people are employed. If a man has the qualifications for a post and there is a vacancy there is no reason why the applicant should not be offered the post. It would surprise Members to hear that even in some cases students who studied with the scholarship of the Government are posted to fields in which they do not qualify simply to make room for the relatives of Ministers and other big men.

I would like to suggest, and I am doing it with all goodwill, that the personnel sections of all Ministries in the Regions should be overhauled by bringing in people who are not natives of that particular Region to work there.

For example, I would suggest that the personnel sections of all the Ministries in the East should be manned by Westerners and Northerners so that when people applied for jobs there would be no question of personnel officers employing the cousins of their wives, their nephews, nieces and uncles. We find that in all parts of this country people are not employed on merit.

These people are employed because they have those whom we call 'god-fathers', and they are employed because they have people who have 'long-legs'. One hon. Member has suggested in this House—

**The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) :** On a point of order, honestly, I can understand short people like the Member for Ikot Ekpene South (*Mr Afanideh*) and others talking about long legs, but not the Member for Udi Central (*Mr Chikelu*) with the longest leg in this House.

**Mr Chikelu :** The word 'long leg' is a slang, so I want the Minister of Finance to understand that.

I hope that the Minister of Labour will take this point very seriously. If nobody else makes this same point, I think a word is sufficient for the wise.

[MR CHIKELU]

Another point I want to make is on the Labour Exchange Office. The present number of the sections of this office dealing with trade tests is not adequate. I suggested last year that there should be about five centres in the East, about twelve in the North, about four in the Mid-West and about six in the West, and that there should be an adequate number of centres in Lagos too for conducting trade tests.

Trade test is very useful because it is the yard stick by which the efficiency of anybody can be measured in his field of work. It is a common knowledge that unlicensed people are found sometimes driving vehicles when they are no drivers. When these people meet with accidents they run out of the vehicle, and get a qualified driver to take their place on the steering so that when a policeman comes to the scene of the accident he does not know what is going on.

In the same way, some houses are known to have fallen down immediately after erection only because those who were employed to work on them are no qualified bricklayers. There is no need going on with a catalogue of other instances where people are placed on a work they do not know. We even find instances of people who are not qualified doctors but who parade themselves about in the country as qualified doctors and killing poor Nigerians. These are quack doctors.

I am therefore suggesting to the Minister of Labour to take adequate steps to establish enough Trade Testing offices throughout the country and have people tested in their field of work before they are employed. When this is done, we shall be able to boast of high efficiency in all our places of work.

The last point that I want to make is on the question of claims people make to higher wages. I want to say that more money does not mean more wealth or more food. I think the best way to help the workers is first of all, to control the rents they pay on the houses they live in; and secondly, to control the prices of local foodstuffs so that the money they are paid will be sufficient for them to buy what they need for food, pay their house rents and save some against the rainy day.

If we give a labourer 12s-6d or £1 per day, but he cannot get a cup of *gari* to buy for 6d, and he cannot get a house to live in unless he

pays £7 per month, I do not know what remains for him to feed upon. It should therefore be inculcated into the minds of our workers that what is important is not how much they are paid as wages, but the conditions under which they work.

I do not know why the Minister cannot control house rents in Lagos. This was done in Enugu, and if the Minister can do the same in Lagos the workers will pay less on house and then have something to save out of whatever wages are paid to them. When the conditions of service of our workers are improved, then the Minister will be in a position to bargain with trade unions in order to increase the productivity of our workers. We always talk in terms of more wages in this country, we do not talk in terms of increased productivity.

I cannot see any reason why a man should be paid to work and he sits in the office, reading newspapers with files lying on his table for so many days unattended to, because he is not paid as much as he would like to be paid. If the conditions of service of our workers are improved, then pressure will be brought to bear upon them to do their work efficiently.

If somebody is working under a pleasant condition and he does not do the work as it should be done, then such a person can be removed. We do hope that these points will be taken very seriously by the Minister and that steps will be taken to implement them.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr D. D. U. Okay** (Port Harcourt) : I praise the Minister of Labour for the good work he has done so far, but may I observe that unemployment has become a big problem in this country. What is the yardstick by which employment is secured to-day in Nigeria, particularly in Lagos? Here in Lagos, if a qualified man applies for a job to-day he will be asked either to produce a big man who will recommend him or to get a letter of recommendation from this big man, otherwise he will not get the job.

Some of us, who are by the grace of God in this Parliament to-day have on one or two occasions recommended some of these unemployed people before they could get employment. This means that if there is an applicant who is well qualified but has no hon. Member

House of Representatives Debates

1929

[Appropriation (1964-65)

7 APRIL 1964

Bill: Committee]

1930

or a Minister to recommend him, he will not get a job. This is very bad.

I am therefore asking the Minister of Labour to make it a point of duty to see that when anybody is qualified for a job he should get it without producing any recommendation from any Minister or an hon. Member.

I beg to support.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): I wish to start by saying something on the sporting activities of this country. It is somewhat humiliating to see that Nigerian teams always go outside the country to play other countries but return completely vanquished. Instead of sending our teams abroad to play only to come back without achieving any victory, we should let them stay in Nigeria, because sport is one of the means by which we can project the personality of this country abroad.

We should not send people out of the country to participate in sporting activities merely for participating sake. We should take part in all sporting activities with the full hope of winning.

The Federal Government has voted a huge sum of money for the development of sports in this country. This is a very wise step, but efforts should be made to re-organise our soccer teams.

The Minister should also take more active part in getting our children in the schools to be more interested in sporting activities. If our children are trained in this field right from school, by the time they finish their career in schools they would have been very good enough to represent this country anywhere in sporting activities.

There have been suggestions that we should have professional footballers in this country in order to be able to compete with any team from any country. I think the Minister should explore the possibility of having at least a professional football team for Nigeria. The system of inviting players from different parts of the country anytime we have to play against any other country is not good enough and it contributes very much to the weakness of our football team.

If there is a permanent national team we shall be able to train the members of the team together, they will understand themselves on

the field of play and this will surely enable this country to compete with any other country in footballing. If we can do this, there will be no need for us to be running helter-skelter, looking for players whenever we have a match against any country.

There is also a great need for the promotion of other sporting activities. Wrestling matches have not received adequate patronage from the Federal Government. It is only in one or two Regions that wrestling matches have been given patronage. There are others like netball, table tennis, lawn tennis and so on.

I have to say that it is important for the Minister to help to organise a really effective organ through which sports will be promoted in this country.

I have to direct my attention to one or two points more before I resume my seat. The first point is the question of physical education, that is the training of more people who are interested in becoming coaches, or who are interested in travelling round to teach schools children how to play games.

Some of the Regions have got people who are willing to do this, and I believe that if this is done by the Ministry of Labour, which at the moment is in charge of sports, that is going to help us a great deal.

The next point is the Trade Union Movement in this country. Efforts have been made to have a united labour front, and we should all congratulate the Government for all its efforts in this direction. But the Minister of Labour should not be tired or feel compelled to leave matters lying. I think that with persistence and continued interest it will be possible for the Minister to effect a respectable trade union organisation in this country in the very near future.

Labour leaders themselves should make their own contributions towards the realisation of this ideal. The country is tired of the continual struggles in the labour front. Perhaps, the cause is rivalry amongst the leaders, what can be termed personal aggrandisement.

Finally, I have to say that the problem of unemployment which the Member for Port Harcourt (*Mr Okay*) mentioned has been mounting very high indeed, and if the Minister

[MR OGBALU] in conjunction with the Minister of Finance looks seriously into this, it will be possible to institute in this country an unemployment relief scheme or project, whereby people who are out of employment for a considerable length of time will be given something to keep them going until they are able to get alternative employment elsewhere.

I beg to support.

£784,730 for Head 50.—Ministry of Labour—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 51.—NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND

£148,980 for Head 51—National Provident Fund—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 52.—MINISTRY OF LAGOS AFFAIRS

£1,366,150 for Head 52—Ministry of Lagos Affairs—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 53.—MINISTRY OF MINES AND POWER

Question proposed, That £259,500 for Head 53—Ministry of Mines and Power—stand part of the Schedule.

**M. Maina Waziri** (Potiskum): Last year I made an appeal to the Minister of Mines and Power for electricity supply in my area. Again this year, I would like to repeat the appeal in order to save my people from this agony.

I remember about two years ago or so, it was recommended that some areas be listed among the towns for consideration in the question of electricity supply. Certain survey teams conducted the survey of the towns involved and some of the towns were recommended.

When the matter was brought before the Council, we suggested that part of the cost be met by the Native Authority, but to our disappointment, when the final list was submitted, our name was deleted.

So, I am appealing humbly to the Minister and begging him, as well as all the Members of this House, to do everything in his power to help us get this electricity supply. The town has got many institutions and even some of the institutions have bought their own private generating plants, because they could not get the public supply.

I am strongly appealing to the Minister to please help us and give us electricity.

I beg to support.

**Chief D. A. Ogunleye** (Ede-Ejigbo): Under this Head, I do not have much to say other than to request the Federal Government to help us finish the extension of the electricity installation in Ejigbo Town. The installation was started about two and half years ago and up till now there are so many streets and quarters that have not been connected. We have made repeated interviews with the Corporation and up till now nothing has been done.

I am appealing that the extension be completed as soon as possible. Besides, there are other places in Oshun Division that should have the benefit of electricity—places like Iragberi, Ora Ola and several other places in my constituency. All these places are very near to those places enjoying the extension already given by the Government, and all that is left is for the Government to extend it a little bit more; we will all be very grateful to the Government for this.

I beg to support.

**Mr N. E. Eleniwa** (Ahoada West): I have to support this Head with some observations. Time and again in this House I have called on the Minister of Mines and Power to see to the necessity of supplying electricity to Ahoada, but the Minister's reply the other day on this matter was not very favourable. Although there is a move in Eastern Nigeria whereby some important towns or important divisions will be supplied with electricity I know Ahoada falls within this move the Minister told me yesterday that he has no plans to supply Ahoada with electricity. What the Minister said beats my imagination and I am craving his indulgence to co-operate with the Eastern Government so that those twenty or twenty-one towns listed for the supply of electricity can get it.

Another point is on the various companies prospecting for oil in this country. There are so many of these companies in the Federation and they have been going from one place to another in search of oil. When these companies come to a place, they damage crops, fell economic trees and they pay very meagre compensation to the owners of the land. The compensation is too meagre to sustain the farmers whose crops and lands have been damaged. I am therefore calling on the Minister to revise this section of the law dealing with compensation for loss of



economic trees or damage to crops, so that the farmers so affected can be paid reasonable compensation.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. M. Damla** (Pankshin West): In contributing to the debate on this Head, I move that the amount be reduced by £50 for the following reasons.

In the first place, I am calling on the Federal Government to amend the mines regulation because it was drawn up during the colonial days, and it is only favourable to the expatriate miners. It is not at all favourable to indigenous miners, so it should be amended forthwith to fall in line with the changing situation in our country to-day.

The second point concerns the Plateau Mines Field where there is a lot of discrimination going on against the Nigerian miners. There was a case of a Northerner by name M. Damboyi Gyel who is having a mining company, and was very much disliked by the expatriate mining companies in the field. Last year the expatriate companies influenced the local police there to harass and molest this Northerner and members of his family. Tear-gas was used at them and he and his family sustained injuries as a result. A complaint was lodged with the Nigerian Police in Jos but up to the moment of speaking no action was taken. It is therefore for this reason that I am asking the Minister to see to it that something is done to protect the lives and property of the Nigerians who are owning mining companies on the mines field.

The expatriate miners did not stop at this. They went to Wamba where this very Northerner had a mining lease and asked the local Chief of Wamba to take away the lease and land from the Northerner—M. Damboyi Gyel. Fortunately, the Chief of Wamba did not accede to this request.

This now brings me to the third point, which is on the price of land acreage in Plateau Province. It is very unfortunate that although we are living in Jos Division, yet an acre of land in the Plateau Mines Field costs £47-0s-6d as compared with an acre of land in Pankshin which costs £15. I have raised this point in this House, and the answer I have always got was that the standard of living in the Plateau

Mines Field is higher than that of Pankshin. And the Minister forgets that the tin ore is neither dug out from Bukuru town nor from Plateau, but in the bush.

The other day the Minister told me that this matter was not within his province but that of the Northern Minister of Lands and Surveys. We Members of Parliament know that mines and power are under the Federal Government, but if the Minister feels that my complaint ought to have been directed to the Northern Minister of Lands and Surveys, I think it is his Ministry's duty, not mine, to so inform the Minister responsible in the North.

I am making this point very strongly because we of the Pankshin Division feel that we are not being fairly treated, and that the mines regulation as it now stands is discriminatory to us. We want that section of the mines regulation amended for we cannot see the reason why in the same Province some people will be paying £47 for an acre of land while others pay £15 for an acre of land too.

The Minister must see to it that something is done and, if possible, I would like him to make a statement on this.

I now come to my fourth point which has to do with a recent radio announcement that a Nigerian was being discriminated against in a certain club in Plateau Province. If that allegation is true, that club must be closed down.

**The Chairman:** The question of club certainly belongs to the Ministry of Labour and Welfare and not the Ministry of Mines and Power.

**Mr Damla:** The club in question is a miner's club.

**The Chairman:** It may be a miner's club but it is certainly not a mine:

**Mr Damla:** I accept your ruling, and I shall proceed to make my last point. About two years ago, work was started by a company known as N.E.S.C.O. for the electrification of certain areas of the Plateau Province. Unfortunately, this work was stopped. Just sometime last year work again was commenced in a place known as Sha near Ambul in Pankshin Division, and we were made to understand

[MR DAMLA]

that the aim of the project was to connect electricity through Kura Falls to Shendam Division. Unfortunately, however, work has stopped again and we do not know the reason for this inconsistency. I want the Minister to make a statement on this.

I beg to support.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East) : I wish to say just a few words on this Head of Mines and Power. I would like to congratulate the Minister of Mines and Power on the efforts he has made to make the production of crude oil reach its present level. In saying this, I have in mind some of the releases which I happened to come across somewhere, somehow. It is credited to the Minister of Mines and Power that he has announced that Nigerian oil production during the next three years will substantially exceed earlier forecasts.

While looking at this production of crude oil, it is necessary to think of the Regions from which they come. Quite recently, some big oil wells have been found in the Mid-West and the efforts of those who are doing the exploratory work deserve to be specially commended.

But there is need for the Minister to have frequent contacts with the companies concerned, so that the pipe lines that are being built from the various places may have different terminals. This is because the oil that is being produced from the Mid-West is also expected to pass through the same pipelines as the ones from Eastern Nigeria.

It is also necessary for the Minister to urge the Ministry of Works and Surveys to do a quick survey of the area where the oil wells, especially the recent ones, have been got, so that there will be a possibility of knowing exactly which oil is being produced from Eastern Nigeria and which oil is being produced from the Mid-West.

Last year, I had the opportunity of visiting some of the oil installations in Eastern Nigeria and I must say, to be fair to the companies working there, that they have done a very good deal of work in the oil exploratory work that is going on there. One thing struck me very, very strongly. That is the vast waste of gas that is going on in all the oil fields. There is,

of course, an improvement at present, following the reports that have reached us from the oil companies themselves and newspaper reports that the one in Afam is to be used as power for electricity. I have also heard that another power station will be built in the Mid-West, perhaps at Ughelli, which will use the gas that is produced there.

We found during our visit to the oil fields in the East that gas, which is the bye-product of crude oil, is as good as any other source of power.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : My hon. Friend (*Chief Oronsaye*) is not educating us on the processes of oil. He is becoming irrelevant. He should make his points. He does not need to teach us that gas should be used for electricity.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : The Member for Benin East (*Chief Oronsaye*) has been talking gas all the time.

**Chief Oronsaye** : I think this Head deals with the Mines and Power, and the production of gas is certainly one of the things that must be considered under this Head.

The point I am driving at is that gas should not be wasted. It is necessary for any hon. Member to go to any of these oil fields and see the vast waste of gas that is going on there. The gas is lighted through special burners and they burn both day and night all the time.

In any case, I would like to praise all those concerned for the good work they have so far done in the Mid-West.

It is necessary for this Ministry also to pay special attention to the production of gold in this country. The Minister should undertake a special survey to see if he could find gold spots. If such a spot is found, the Government should embark on its production, even if it would mean a loss at the initial stage. Some time ago, we heard that there was a gold find at Ilesha, or somewhere around there, but instead of the usual rush that we have for gold mines, there was only perhaps a slight movement of people from one country to the other and that was the end of it.

House of Representatives Debates

1937

[Adjournment]

7 APRIL 1964

[Adjournment]

1938

I think that if there is any possibility of producing gold in this country, it would be very good, because we need gold now to back up our reserve.

I must say a word about these power failures. Sometimes these power failures occur because of our present development projects which make most of the power stations to be overloaded. In this particular instance, such a failure is inevitable. But there are times when power failure appears to be the result of sabotage. In February, we were somewhere in Nigeria when—

*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. ₦259,500 for Head 53—Ministry of Mines and Power—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

(The Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Committee report Progress—to sit again, Tomorrow.*

ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(MINISTER OF STATE, MR M. A. O. OLAREWAJU).*

TENDER FOR POLICE UNIFORMS

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): On this Motion of Adjournment, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of State for Police Affairs to the well spread information that officials at the Police Headquarters are contemplating giving the contract for the sewing of Police uniforms, which was previously given to indigenous tailors, to two foreign tailoring contractors who, in their own rights, are not trained tailors. This is an effort to throw our people out of jobs.

If the officials concerned manage to get this proposal through—as they have already given these two contractors to sample for formal approval in order to get the contract later—I am sure it will throw a large number of people out of business and their dependants into difficulties, because of two expatriate self-made tailors.

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu** (Owerri South East): The hon. Member should be told not to read his little speech. It is a very small speech and I do not see why he should be reading it.

**The Deputy Speaker**: Our Standing Order forbids reading but permits references to notes. I expected, perhaps, that the Member for Ijebu South (**Mr Odulana**) was at a stage of looking up when he was called to order. So, I do hope that he will make the rest of his speech looking up.

**Mr Odulana**: I therefore call upon the hon. Minister for Police Affairs to use his good offices to investigate properly this unpalatable news and stop it once and for all. He should also make sure that at no time must Nigerian tailors be thrown out of job of this kind in their God-given country.

**Minister of State** (Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju): The purchase and preparation of police uniforms are considered by the Force Purchasing Board, under the terms of Force Orders No. 392. This Board consists of a Chairman; the Commissioner of Police, Force Headquarters; a Vice-Chairman; the Chief Accountant; the Chief Stores Officer.

The Police uniforms are manufactured locally from cloth made in Nigeria and at no time is the manufacturing done outside this country. This means that local labour is employed in the manufacture of these uniforms.

I can assure the hon. Member that there is no intention to take away contracts from Nigerian tailors. In fact, no contracts have so far been awarded. Tenders and samples have been invited, and when it is time to consider the contracts, awards will be given on merits and on the most economical manner which will ensure the proper expenditure of Government funds, and in a way which will not throw Nigerian tailors out of job.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central): I would like to raise a point on Parliamentary Questions. On the 31st of March, my Questions Nos. 394, 395 and 396 which appeared on the Order Paper of that particular day were not asked by me because I was not here to ask them. But according to Standing Orders, when a

[DR OKEKE] Member is not present to ask his Questions which appeared on the Order Paper, or if he was present and the Questions were not reached, those Questions must be printed in the Hansard of that particular day.

On the 1st of April, Questions 415, 416 and 417 appeared on the Order Paper. I was not present to ask them and I did not find their answers printed in the Hansard of that day. I want the Leader of the House to cause these Questions to be printed or to see to it that the Answers to these Questions are sent to me in writing.

The Minister of Finance (Chief Okotie-Eboh) : I will ask the Clerk of the Parliaments to see that the Answers of Questions not asked are put down in the Hansard as from to-day. But I cannot ask it to be put down retrospectively because the negligence was on the part of the hon. Member. If a Member files Questions, he should come here to listen to the Answers. Does the Member for Onitsha North Central (Dr Okeke) expect the Hansard to be sent him when he runs away to Onitsha ?

Dr Okeke : I do not accept negligence. I stand by the Standing Orders of this House which were printed before I came into this Parliament, and I should be treated fairly according to what is in there.

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East) : I feel that when a Member is not present in the House to ask his Questions, those Questions are considered lost. I say so because there may be a time when, after a Member has put down his Question on the Order Paper, he might find that the Question is not very good or that it is dangerous, and then decides not to come to the House to ask it. But then if the Question is answered in the Hansard, he will have an excuse to give, that he was not in the House when the Answer to his Question was given.

Therefore, I appeal to the Leader of the House that if a Member is not here to ask his Question, the Question must be considered lost. (Interruptions)

The Deputy Speaker : Order, order. I shall be failing in my duty if I allow this debate to continue because we might end up with a lot of misdirection and misinterpretation of the Standing Orders. Standing Order 14 (7) makes provision pertinent to this issue. If a Question is not reached before 10.30 a.m. or if the Member is not present, the Answer should appear in the Hansard of that day.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at 5.30 p.m.

... employed in the manufacture of these uniforms. I can assure the hon. Member that there is no intention to take away contracts from Nigerian tailors. In fact, no contracts have so far been awarded. Tenders and samples have been invited, and when it is time to consider the contracts, which will be given on a monthly and on the most economical manner which will ensure the proper expenditure of Government funds and in a way which will not throw Nigerian tailors out of job.

... Mr A. E. Oduwale (Ibadan South) : On the Motion of Adjournment, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of State for Police Affairs to the well spread information that officials at the Police Headquarters are contemplating giving the contract for the sewing of Police uniforms which was previously given to indigenous tailors in two foreign tailoring contractors who in their own right, are not trained tailors. This is an effort to throw our people out of jobs. If the officials concerned manage to get the proposal through—as they have already given these two contractors to sample for formal approval in order to get the contract later—I am sure it will cause a large number of people out of business and their dependants into difficulties, because of two separate self-made tailors.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 8th April, 1964

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Investment Habits

**O.508 Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Economic Development, what are Nigerians' investment habits.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development** (Mr F. U. Mbakogu): Nigerian investors tend to invest their savings in real properties, transport business, retail trade and social overheads such as education. More Nigerians are now investing in industrial undertakings than in the past partly through Government effort.

**Dr Okeke**: Is there anything the Minister is doing to encourage investment in productive enterprises by Nigerians?

**Mr Mbakogu**: Government is doing a lot in that direction. In the first place, the Government has set up its own industries and has allowed private people to take up shares in those industries. Secondly, the Government has set up a loans board and an industrial bank to make funds available to Nigerians who are interested in setting up their industries. There are lots of things Government is doing and I think these are examples of the things it is doing to encourage Nigerians to invest in industries.

**Dr Okeke**: Will the Minister not consider a suggestion to Government that as Government invests in factories and industries, when an industry begins to pay Government will sell out to the people and use the capital to set up another industry.

**Mr Mbakogu**: The Government does not want to establish itself as a commercial concern. I think it is the intention of the Government to sell out some industries and it is only certain industries such as the Electricity Corporation

and the Coal Corporation which ought to be nationalised in the national interest that the Government does not intend to sell out.

The other industries are set up by the Government because Nigerians are not forthcoming to establish such industries but when Nigerians are forthcoming the Government will give way to them.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East): Is the Minister aware of the sordid method of discriminating against Nigerians? The point is that when a Nigerian is fit they say he has not got the capital; when he has the capital, they say he has not got the experience; when he has the capital and the experience, they say he is too small! Will the Minister make a statement about that, particularly with regard to these major investment projects in which Nigerians could be allowed to feature prominently?

**Mr Mbakogu**: The Minister is not aware of any undertaking partly sponsored by Government where Nigerians have been discriminated against.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe** (Orlu West): On a point of order, before I ask my question I want to point out that the error in grammar in the question is not mine. Originally, I asked "has each of the Governments", I did not say "have each of the Governments".

**Mr Speaker**: I do not think there is anything grammatically wrong in that.

Financial Assistance

**O.637 Dr B. U. Nzeribe** asked the Minister of Economic Development, what assistance have each of the Governments of the U.S.A., Canada, and the Soviet Union contributed to the Six-Year Development Programme of the Republic of Nigeria.

**Mr Mbakogu**: The First Progress Report of the Federal Government Development Programme 1962-68 published as Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1964, gives up-to-date information on the financial assistance received from various countries towards the implementation of the programme. The hon. Minister of Economic Development has responsibility for technical assistance only and in this regard, about two hundred Nigerian officers have

[DR MBAKOGU] received or are receiving training in the United States of America; and, up to one hundred and forty American experts have been supplied under the technical assistance scheme between Nigeria and the United States Government.

Similarly, Canada has supplied about fifty experts and teachers, while about twenty-five Nigerians have either been trained or are receiving training in Canada. Moreover, the Canadian Government has assisted Nigeria in the field of Aerial Photography and Mapping.

Nigeria has received technical assistance from the Soviet Union under the United Nations Multilateral Assistance Scheme. Since 1962 the Soviet Union has been offering forty-five scholarships to Nigeria annually. Nigerian students are already studying in Russia under this scheme.

**Dr Nzeribe :** For a long time we have been suggesting this idea of counterpart training. When the American Government sends Peace Corps personnel to Nigeria why should the Nigerian Government not press on the American Government to take some Nigerians as counterparts so that when the Peace Corps people leave there will be no vacuum? Is the Minister thinking about this?

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

**Dr Okeke :** Will the Minister assure this House that as this Government goes abroad, especially to America to recruit Americans, this Government will also recruit Nigerians who have qualified in those countries and who, for one reason or another, could not find their way back to this country? Will they recruit qualified Nigerians and bring them home to contribute to the progress of this country?

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East) :** Is the Minister aware that he has not given an answer to the question because the question did not specifically ask about technical assistance? It asked for all forms of assistance. Does the Minister want us to take him seriously when he says that his Ministry is in charge only of technical assistance? What this question wants is what overall assistance in terms of finance or otherwise the various governments have contributed. We want to know how much in terms of funds the various governments have contributed.

### Progress on Six-Year Plan

**O.638 Mr J. A. Akor** asked the Minister of Economic Development, what progress has so far been made in the Six-Year Development Programme, how many countries have responded to the appeal for aid towards the Programme; and what type of aid have the countries given.

**Mr Mbakogu :** The progress made so far with the Six-Year Development Programme and the details of the external finance received are set out in Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1964.

### HEALTH

#### Hospital Deaths

**O.509 Chief D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Health, how many surgical cases resulted in death in Lagos in 1963.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health (M. Hamza Gombe) :** There were 6,886 surgical operations and 37 deaths, or .5 per cent.

#### Chemistry Services

**O.510. Chief D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Health, what chemistry services have been established in Lagos.

**M. Hamza Gombe :** The chemistry services established in Lagos are within the Chemistry Division of my Ministry.

The services include :

(a) The routine examinations of Lagos Water Supply, food and drugs ;

(b) the examination of exhibits in criminal cases and post mortem specimens on behalf of the Nigeria Police ;

(c) the examination of samples from the Board of Customs and Excise for the purpose of import duty assessment ;

(d) the quality control of commercial products intended for export.

In addition, the Division investigates a large variety of problems connected with Chemical aspects of public health, industrial Development and Local trading.

#### Council of Medical Research

**O.511. Chief D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Health, what advantages have been

obtained by Nigeria as a result of her membership of the West African Council of medical Research.

**M. Hamza Gombe :** The main advantage to Nigeria of her membership of the West African Council for Medical Research is the sharing of the result of research into medical problems common to member states.

The more important research work deals with the problems of tuberculosis, viral diseases, helminthiasis (or worms) onchocerciasis (river blindness) and paediatrics (or child health). These researches are very expensive in men and materials and great benefit has accrued to member states as a result of the sharing out of the work involved between centres located in different countries who are members of the Council.

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa (Ahoada Central) :** May we know from the Minister if in this medical research use is made of the knowledge of the native doctor ?

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

#### Life Expectancy

**O.512. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Health, what is the present life expectancy of the average Nigerian.

**M. Hamza Gombe :** Statistics on mortality are available only in respect of Lagos. Life expectancy at birth is about 40 years but if a Nigerian survives the first 5 years of life he will be expected to live up to 60 years. This is because of the present high child mortality rate.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) :** May we know from the Minister exactly how he got his figures ?

#### Lagos Health Scheme

**O.53. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Health, how much money was spent on pamphlets and other programmes which he used in the campaign for the acceptance of the Lagos Health scheme.

**M. Hamza Gombe :** The amount spent was £2,465-12s-8d.

**Dr Okeke :** Is the Minister of Health aware that it is a criminal waste of public funds to use the people's money to campaign for acceptance

of a bill by the Members of this House when the Members have given indication that they are opposed to such a bill ? Is he aware that the expenditure is unpardonable in view of the fact that he is using the money to campaign against the people's representatives ?

**M. Hamza Gombe :** The Minister is not aware.

#### Mental Health Problems

**O.642. Dr B. U. Nzeribe** asked the Minister of Health, what contributions his Ministry has made towards the solution of mental problems in Nigeria during the past three years.

**M. Hamza Gombe :** The answer to this question is very long and, with your permission, Mr Speaker, it will be circulated in the *Hansard*.

**Dr Nzeribe :** On a point of order, Question O.642 on the *Order Paper* has not been answered.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order, I believe that Question O.642 was answered. I remember hearing the Parliamentary Secretary offering to put the answer in the *Hansard* in view of its lengthy nature.

*The answer is as follows :—*

The Ministry has contributed towards the alleviation of this distressing problem both here and abroad. In 1961 with the financial support and co-operation of the Federal Government a Psychiatric Congress was convened at Aro in Abeokuta which was attended by Psychiatric Experts from practically all countries of the world. The report of this Congress has now been published in a book form and the contributions made by Nigerians at this Conference have been widely acclaimed.

On the physical side, while on the 1st April, 1961 we had no Specialist Psychiatrists and only 9 fully trained Psychiatric Nurses, on the 1st April, 1964, there are 2 Specialist Psychiatrists, 34 Trained Psychiatric Nurses, 2 Psychiatric Social Workers, 1 Occupational Therapist and 1 Pharmacist in the Federal Territory alone. This has resulted in an increase of the number of successfully treated cases of mentally disturbed patients.

During the past three years, a Convalescent Home has been established at Oshodi to house about 150 convalescent psychiatric patients. Plans are now ready for the building of a new

and modern Mental Hospital to accommodate 365 patients and it is hoped that this Hospital will be completed within the current economic plan period.

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### Ubulu-Uku Telephone Needs

**O.135. Mr E. A. Mordi** asked the Minister of Communications, what is holding up the installation of a telephone call box in Ubulu-Uku post office despite the fact that well over 30 subscribers have indicated their willingness to be supplied with telephones; and if he will give an assurance that the installation will be made in 1964.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications (Mr S. F. Nwika)**: The reply to this question is not ready.

#### Ahoada Postal Agencies

**O.295. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Communications, what are the present units of business transacted at the following postal Agencies:—Akinima, Joinkrama Akabuka, Erema and Okwuzi; and whether he will convert any of them into a sub-post office.

**Mr Nwika**: The current units of business transacted at the Postal Agencies named are as follows:—

Akinima	.. .. .	3,560
Joinkrama	.. .. .	7,002
Akabuka	.. .. .	5,099
Erema	.. .. .	6,765
Okwuzi	.. .. .	4,223

None of these postal agencies can be converted to a sub-post office as the business transacted in each of them is still far below the qualifying units, for conversion.

**Mr Elenwa**: Is the Minister aware that this very answer was the answer he gave three years ago and last year too? It, therefore, shows that he is not doing anything about the situation.

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South)**: There are five towns listed in the question. Will it not be possible for the Minister to group all these five towns together and give them one post office if he cannot give them one post office each?

#### Eha-Amufu Post Office

**O.514. Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Minister of Communications, when he proposes to convert the sub-post office at Eha-Amufu into a full post office.

**Mr Nwika**: Provision has been made in the 1962-68 Development Programme for a departmental post office to replace the sub-post office at Eha-Amufu. It is not possible to say now when funds will be released for the project.

**Mr U. O. Ayeni (Afemai North West)**: Will the Government give out the list of post offices in that Programme?

**Mr Nwika**: I would advise the Member for Afemai North West (*Mr Ayeni*) to be patient until the White Paper is published.

#### Nsukka Post Office

**O.515. Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Minister of Communications whether he will now treat as a matter of urgency the construction of a new and larger post office block at Nsukka to cope with the increased volume of work there.

**Mr Nwika**: The provision of a large post office at Nsukka is included in the 1962-68 Development Programme. The erection of the new building will commence as soon as funds are released.

#### Ekwerazu Postal Agency

**O.516. Mr N. D. Ukah** asked the Minister of Communications if he will approve, as a matter of urgency, the conversion of the Ekwerazu Postal Agency into a sub-post office in view of the rapidly increasing volume of business in the area.

**Mr Nwika**: The current units of business transacted at Ekwerazu Postal Agency are 23,859. These are below the conversion level laid down in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, but with the proposed reduction in units of conversion Ekwerazu will qualify for conversion to a sub-post office and necessary action will be taken for its upgrading when funds are available.

#### Owerri Division Postal Agencies

**O.517. Mr N. D. Ukah** asked the Minister of Communications if he will state the volume



*House of Representatives Debates*

1949

[*Oral Answers*]

8 APRIL 1964

[*Oral Answers*]

1950

of business at the Enyiogwugwu and Okwuator postal agencies in Owerri Division.

**Mr Nwika :** The units of business transacted at the postal agencies are as follows :—

	1961	1962	1963	
Enyio- gwugwu	18,690	20,813	19,399	
Okwuator (opened 25-6-62) ..	—	—	8,470	

**Lagos-Makurdi Trunk**

**O.643. Mr P. Tarkende** asked the Minister of Communications whether he will consider linking up Makurdi by telephone directly with Lagos in view of the political and economic importance of the expanding town.

**Mr Nwika :** The reply to this Question is not ready.

**Gboko Post Office**

**O.644. Mr P. Tarkende** asked the Minister of Communications how soon he proposes to rebuild the post office and Telephone Exchange at Gboko.

**Mr Nwika :** Gboko Post Office is a modern Type E Post Office Building which was opened on 24th November, 1956. The accommodation provided is still adequate for the need of the office and there is therefore no proposal as yet to re-build the Post Office.

**Nung-Udoe Postal Agency**

**O.645. Mr P. O. Akpan** asked the Minister of Communications what plans he has for converting the Nung-Udoe Postal Agency in Uyo Division into a sub-post office.

**Mr Nwika :** The current units of business transacted at Nung-Udoe Postal Agency are 17,639. These are below the conversion level laid down in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. With the projected reduction in units of conversion, Nung-Udoe Postal Agency will soon qualify for upgrading to a sub-post office, provided that funds are available.

**Awo Omamma Postal Agency**

**O. 646. Dr B. U. Nzeribe** asked the Minister of Communications whether he will consider converting the Awo Omamma Postal Agency

into a sub-post office now that the volume of business transacted there has exceeded the required minimum.

**Mr Nwika :** The Awo Omamma Postal Agency has attained 24,192 units and the question of its conversion to a sub-post office has been taken up with the appropriate County Council.

The Agency will be upgraded as soon as the preliminary investigations and other arrangements are completed.

**Dr Nzeribe :** I just want to implore the Minister of Communications to see that funds are available as soon as possible.

**Aba South Postal Agency**

**O.650. Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of Communications when he will convert the postal agency in Aba South to a sub-post office.

**Mr Nwika :** It is presumed that the questioner meant either the Obiora Road Postal Agency or the Aba Town Postal Agency. Although these postal agencies are about one mile from the Ngwa Road Branch Post Office and a mile and half from the Aba Post Office, the volume of business transacted in each of them is being examined to determine whether a Branch or a Sub-Post Office is necessary.

**Imo River Post Office**

**O.651. Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of Communications if he will state the volume of business in Imo River Post Office, and whether he will consider the desirability of resiting the post office in a more central area to serve both the people of Imo River and Obigbo.

**Mr Nwika :** Business transactions in departmental post offices are not calculated in units as is the case at sub-post offices and postal agencies. It is not possible therefore to state the volume of business in Imo River Post Office in terms of units. There is no intention at present to remove the Imo River Post Office from its existing site, but steps will be taken to determine whether there is a need for additional postal facilities at Obigbo.

**Aba South Telephone Need**

**O.652. Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of Communications when he proposes to provide telephone service in Aba South ; and if he will include Asa and Udoki County Councils in his priority list.

**Mr Nwika** : A Call Office will soon open at Imo River and consideration is being given to the provision of telephone service in the current development programme at Asa, Udoki and other towns in Aba South.

**Ilorin Division Postal Agencies**

**O.653. Mr P. B. Olatunde** asked the Minister of Communications, how many postal agencies are now in Igbomina, Offa and Ekiti in Ilorin Division ; and if he will state the units of transaction attained yearly by each of the postal agencies up to 1963.

**Mr Nwika** : In view of the length of the answer, it will be published in the Official Report, with your permission, Sir.

*The answer is as follows :—*

The following are the Postal Agencies in Igbomina, Offa and Ekiti in Ilorin Division : and their units of work.

<i>(a) Offa-</i>			
<i>Igbomina</i>	1961	1962	1963
Ajasepo ..	4,447	6,925	5,402
Erinle ..	21,194	18,699	23,885
Ikotun ..	5,303	3,948	3,680
Isanlu Osi ..	3,719	4,187	4,341
Otun Oro ..	27,097	29,061	33,912
Owu ..	3,088	4,995	5,465
Oke Origbin	5,132	4,383	4,646
Agidiri ..	14,289	17,300	18,661
Ojoku ..	5,486	4,189	4,611
Omupo ..	3,963	3,833	4,317
Ira (opened 1961) ..	—	3,462	3,540
<i>(b) Ekiti-</i>			
<i>Igbomina</i>	1961	1962	1963
Eruku ..	2,988	3,646	3,299
Ilofa ..	3,297	2,821	3,489
Osi Ilorin ..	4,632	4,471	5,270
Obbo			
Aiyegunle	2,756	2,724	2,709

<i>(c) Ilorin-</i>			
<i>Igbomina</i>	1961	1962	1963
Igbaja ..	20,192	20,192	19,710
Omu-Aran ..	9,807	12,182	13,159
Idofia ..	3,429	3,751	4,811
Oro-Ago ..	6,321	6,991	7,955
Oke-Ode ..	5,080	4,141	4,139

**Ilorin South Postal Agencies**

**O.654. Mr P. B. Olatunde** asked the Minister of Communications if he will state how many postal agencies are qualified to be converted into sub-post offices in Igbomina, Offa and Ekiti.

**Mr Nwika** : According to the standards laid down by the Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, the Otun Oro Postal Agency in Offa is now qualified for conversion into a Sub-Post Office. As the qualifying standard will shortly be reduced from 24,000 to 18,000 units, Erinle, Agidiri and Igbaja Postal Agencies will qualify for conversion into Sub-Post Offices. The special problem posed by Otun Oro has been touched in the Minister's answer to your Question O.655.

**Otun Oro Postal Agency**

**O.655. Mr P. B. Olatunde** asked the Minister of Communications if, in view of the fact that Otun Oro Postal Agency attained 26,000 units since 1960, he will convert it into a sub-post office.

**Mr Nwika** : The hon. Member has asked a similar question twice within the last twelve months and, as stated in my previous reply, consideration is still being given to determining which of the postal services in Ilorin East will give the maximum benefits to the community. As soon as a decision is taken on the Minister's White Paper which sets out the problem clearly, the question will be resolved.

**Ugep Postal Agency**

**O.656. Mr U. U. Eko** asked the Minister of Communications when the postal agency at Ugep will be converted into a sub-post office in view of the fact that the agency has reached 18,000 units mark.

**Mr Nwika :** With the current units of business transacted at Ugep Postal Agency amounting to 26,323, the agency has attained the level of business laid down for the conversion of Postal Agencies to Sub-Post Office, and its upgrading will be effected when funds are available.

**Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East) :** This phrase, "when funds are available", I think should not arise in as much as we have passed the Estimates of that Ministry. Will the Minister not take it that after the passage of the Estimates, funds will be available ?

**Mr J. U. Udenyi (Enyong North) :** On a point of order, the Minister of Communications should give a post office to every constituency ; it is a necessity.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order. It is now 10.30 a.m. and under Standing Orders, no further Oral Questions can be entertained.

#### Absence of Ministers

**Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) :** On a point of order, it is very sad that there is no Minister in this House to-day to answer the oral questions. We know that the President of Senegal is coming ; that fact is well taken. If we wanted to close the Parliament to-day, that would be quite a different thing.

**The Deputy Speaker :** I think that is a matter which, if the hon. Gentleman really wants to be of good service to the nation, he could take up with the Prime Minister confidentially.

It might border, perhaps, on indiscretion if we go to make a statement on the absence of Ministers from Parliament knowing fully well the purpose for which they are absent. But I do not think that they want to evade the Parliament.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### DENIAL OF ALLEGATION

**Mr E. A. Mordi (Asaba East) :** I wish to draw the attention of the House to the reference made to me last Monday, April 6th, by the Federal Minister of Finance, Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh. He remarked damagingly as follows—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development (Mr F. U. Mbakogu) :** I think in a matter like this,

the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) will be quite in order if the Minister to whom he is referring is present here.

**The Deputy Speaker :** May I please appeal to hon. Members that I would not like us to have any reckless disorder this morning.

Under Standing Order 16, Personal Explanations should not be controversial. So far, we have not heard what the hon. Member has got to say. I certainly would not like, in the course of Personal Explanations, anyone to introduce controversial statements.

**Mr Mordi :** As I was saying, the Minister of Finance remarked most damagingly as follows :—

Firstly, that my speech of the 31st March was drafted for me by the Action Group Bureau of Publicity, that that speech was directed against my party, and that I was paid to do so.

Secondly, he mentioned that I was collecting money from the school where I am working.

Thirdly, he said that consequent on my bargain for money, I solicited in this House for the release of Chief Awolowo, who is now serving a term of ten years imprisonment.

It would be seen from these remarks, especially when read within the entire context of his speech, that the Minister was minded on impugning my integrity by attempting falsely to represent me as a mercenary, treacherous and dishonest fellow. This, to say the least, is wicked and mischievous.

I never expected my good Friend, the Minister of Finance, would have given this negative approach to my speech, which was forthright and—

**The Deputy Speaker :** May I invite the hon. Member to study, now or later, the terms of Standing Order 16. Since these statements of fact have been made, and since it would be well in order if he merely made a categorical denial of them, I would ask him to leave what ever might be debatable till such a time when he might be in a position to confront the Minister when there is opportunity for debates.

**Mr Mordi :** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I was trying to list what the Minister of Finance had said about me, and then give myself the opportunity of saying that those things are not true.

[MR MORDI]

I want to say categorically that those allegations which he made against me are not true. I must also say that I am asking the Minister of Finance to withdraw those statements on the Floor of this House because, to me, they are very malicious.

If he refuses to do this, and if he continues to—

**The Deputy Speaker :** I think the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) has really said what he is supposed to say. He has done what he can do under Standing Order 16. He is not precluded at any time, in the course of the deliberations of this House, and at a time when it is relevant, from engaging the Minister of Finance in debate.

The hon. Member had already said that the statements made were untrue, and I think that is as much as can be accommodated in a Personal Explanation. Any other demands or statements might be open to debates and disagreements, and this is not the proper occasion for it.

**Mr Mordi :** In accepting your ruling, Mr Speaker, I want to say that it is only those who are hate-ridden—

**The Deputy Speaker :** The Clerk may now proceed to read the Order of the Day.

#### ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1964-65) BILL  
(FIFTH ALLOTTED DAY) : CONSIDERED IN  
COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

#### HEAD 54.—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

*Question proposed, That £140,030 for Head 54—Geological Survey—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South) : On a point of order, I wish to make an appeal to this House because of what happened yesterday when we were discussing certain Heads on the Appropriation Bill.

Yesterday, it was suggested and approved by this House that there would be night sitting on the Appropriation Bill. Unfortunately, we did not hold a night sitting so that most of the Heads that were to be discussed possibly during the night sitting were rushed through within 4 o'clock and 5 o'clock in the evening.

Consequently, several Members were not given the opportunity to contribute to the debate or to comment on any of these Heads. In effect, £17,000,000 of public funds were passed in this House without any debates.

**The Chairman :** I would not like us to go backwards. I do not quite see the wisdom of now protesting because I am sure that if we had in this House yesterday as many people as we have this morning, those Heads we discussed could not have escaped the vigilance of those who were not here yesterday.

I certainly cannot accept any further debate on this matter. For anyone who might be interested, I would draw his attention to Item 12 of the Votes and Proceedings of yesterday.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North) : Speaking on Geological Survey, I want to say that much as I appreciate the little effort being made by Government to discover the hidden treasures of our country, it seems to me that we tend to leave this to foreign firms completely.

It is our experience in this country that most of the data we use to-day are those collected by foreign firms. Take the case of oil for instance. There are geologists of various distinctions who have been parading the country for years and who, no doubt, must have discovered quite a lot.

The truth is that our Government seems to rely so much on what is given to it by the foreign firms. We have no means of cross-checking, we have no means of relying on our own information, rather we depend solely on what we have been told by the foreign companies.

These companies are doing very well, there is no doubt about that, from their reports, but what I am saying is that the geologists will go to a particular area to prospect for oil. They send people from their seismographic department to do the testing and after that these people in the seismographic department keep the report to themselves. They do not have to give to the particular company that employs them everything they have discovered.

The result is that Shell B.P., for instance, will go to a particular area and it is only occasionally that one can hear that oil has been struck. All that we generally hear is that there is no oil, or that they have discovered only gas, or that nothing has been found at all.

*House of Representatives Debates*

1957

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

8 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1958

Then after sometime a new company will come, information will be sold to them go to the same area by the geologists, and when the company goes to the same area one hears the following day that oil has been struck.

One may be tempted to ask why this is so. These people are not fools. These geologists know what they are doing. They cannot sell out all their information to one particular firm simply because it employs them.

If these people can do that to themselves, what of our own Government. How do we think they can give to us every information about what they have discovered under the earth? Therefore, it becomes necessary that in the field of geology, we really have to give scholarships.

This question of giving a few men scholarships to specialise in geology and then come back is not enough. We should have a bold scheme of training geologists. We have to send some of them to America. I hear an hon. Member say Russia. Yes, send some of them to Russia.

Let us face the fact—in the world to-day America and Russia are leading the world in technological advancement and in science, there is no doubt about that; we cannot fight shy of that fact. If, therefore, I mention America and Russia, I do not think anybody should frown at it. It is a statement of fact.

There is no point in sending a few people to England and then a few other people to America. The Government should have a bold scholarship scheme to train people as scientists. We need people who will come and explore the earth and tell us exactly what we have in it, we should not depend so much on foreign firms. This is the point I have to make. At the moment we are relying too much on foreign firms but these foreign experts, much as I do not doubt their integrity, cannot afford to give to us everything that they have discovered.

I have given an example of what is happening. Some of the experts came to my area and said they found nothing there, but later some others came and said they had discovered something. I am sure there must be something wrong. Although they might tell us that in carrying out their survey they had struck oil in a

particular area and in another area that they had got nothing but I still believe and it is my information that they make more money than they allow us to know. Therefore, we cannot rely entirely on what they tell us. We should send people abroad and in good number to qualify as geologists.

This is the only point I want to make on that and it brings me to the question of mines in the North—the Bukuru mines field in Northern Nigeria. For years now we have been shouting and crying on the Floor of this House, appealing to the Government to do something to save the employees in the Bukuru minesfield. The working condition there is deplorable.

**The Chairman :** May I draw the attention of the hon. Member to the fact that mines belong to Head 53 which we have already passed.

**Mr Mbah :** I think that the miners are working on the reports of geologists.

**The Chairman :** That is a far-fetched argument.

**Mr Mbah :** Well, since the Chairman would not allow me to comment on the horrible condition under which the miners in the Bukuru minesfield are working, I beg to support.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East) :** On a point of order, I should like to say for the information of the labour leader that the Bukuru mines has a very strong industrial council in which people fight bitterly for their rights. I would not say that they get everything, but I know they get on reasonably well.

**Mr Mbah :** On a point of order, I think it has been accepted on the Floor of this House that the condition in the Bukuru minesfield is really horrible and I do not think anybody can dispute that. The working condition there is horrible.

**Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South) :** I want to say that the geological survey in this country at present is not being energetically pursued by the Government. Sometime ago, some Canadian experts were brought to this country to have an aerial survey of the mineral resources of the country and what they did was to survey some part of the country and not the whole of it. The results also were not released.

[MR AJASIN]

I think that the Government should pursue this question more vigorously than it is doing at present because these mineral resources will add to the economy of the country.

Again, we should not be concerned with the question of oil alone. But for the expatriate firms that deal with the discovery of oil in the country, the Federal Government is doing nothing practically. Mining of oil alone should not form the basis of mineral exploration of the country. There is a great amount of gold deposits as well as iron and tin in other parts of the country apart from the North.

In Ondo Province, there are places where gold can be found in commercial quantity and this has not been surveyed by the Federal Government. Tin and iron can also be found in that part of the country. There is also a diamond field which is not very far away from Lagos here. I can hear an hon. Member asking where this is situated, but I do not want to tell him. It is for the Government to find out these places first.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments** (M. Akubakar Isandu): It will be very interesting for us to know where diamond is found in the country. I wonder if the hon. Member who is an Action Group member wants to hide the place until the Action Group comes to power before he reveals it.

**Mr Ajasin** : Here is a carpet crosser brought in here by the Action Group, with the Action Group money and everything. He has now crossed to the other side and is making all this noise.

**Mr Isandu** : Any Member of this House who failed to cross the carpet before the crisis in the Action Group and is still with the party does not know what he is doing. The acting leader of the Action Group and the General Secretary have resigned and are nowhere to be found.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education** (Mr D. C. Ugwu): On a point of order, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments is irrelevant.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** : On a point of order, I have said it once, twice and even up

to ten times that the Member for Jos North West (*Mr Akubakar Isandu*) and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments did not cross the carpet. He only returned home safely.

**Mr E. D. Akinbowale** (Ijebu North): On a point of order, I would not agree with the Member for Gwarzo East (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*) that the man returned home safely. He was bought.

**The Chairman** : Order, order. We cannot interfere with the Orders of the Day by introducing extraneous points of order.

**Mr Ajasin** : Thank you, Mr Chairman. I hope these Members will avoid all these unintelligent interruptions. I was saying that the deposit of diamond is not very far away from Lagos and that the Federal Government is doing nothing about finding out the mineral resources of the country. I was also going to call the attention of the Federal Government to all these things.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power** (Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika): I think the hon. Gentleman should mention the place where the diamond is. He merely said near Lagos but we would like him to tell us which place.

**Mr Ajasin** : That should be a matter for the Minister of Mines and Power.

**The Chairman** : Order, order. I think we are all here to contribute to the progress of the nation and I think if any Member is good enough to start volunteering some useful information, he should take the House or the Government into confidence. He should not leave matters in the air as if we are in a brains trust.

**Mr Ajasin** : Mr Chairman, I think I have given sufficient indication about the place, it is in an area near Lagos and it is the duty of the Government to make a survey of the area and find out the location of the place.

Geological survey is not a thing that can just be taken up by any individual without sufficient training. That is why I support the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) who urged that more scholarships should be given to Nigerians to study geological survey abroad because those

House of Representatives Debates

1961

[Appropriation (1964-65)

8 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1962

people who are engaged in it now, the expatriates, are people who have passed through the universities.

If one looks at the Staff List one will find that they are people with doctorate degrees, science degrees and so on. This should be a thing that we should encourage a large number of our people to study. These people should be encouraged to study this particular branch of knowledge abroad by offering them scholarships.

I beg to support.

**The Chairman :** M. Abba Yola. (*Interruptions*). I think that the hon. Member standing is M. Abba Yola. If so, he should carry on.

**M. Abba Yola** (Wudil) : Mr Chairman, I wish to speak on Head 55—Transport.

**Mr O. J. Eminue** (Eket East) : I have one important remark to make on this Head. During the search for oil in this country by the Shell BP Company, old Calabar Province was their first field of operation.

**The Chairman :** Will the hon. Gentleman please speak louder ?

**Mr Eminue :** Akata was the first field where oil was struck in Opobo Division. Oil was also struck at Ukwo in Eket Division and also at Ituk Mbang and Adadia in Uyo Division. But all these oil wells were sealed off by the Shell BP Company and they removed their field of operation to other sections.

I hope that it is not because old Calabar Province is not a Region on its own that the Shell BP Company removed their oil operations from that area.

We know that this Government is very anxious that the oil industry should be expanded in this country. We are very anxious too that the oil found in the old Calabar Province should be tapped, but it seems that the Shell BP Company conspired against the people of Calabar.

We appeal to the Minister in charge to revoke the oil licences granted to the Shell BP for the exploration of oil in the old Calabar Province and allow other companies to come in to work on these oil wells.

I beg to support.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central) : I wish to associate myself with the points which have been already made but in addition may I mention that most of our people who have secured Government scholarships to go to overseas to study geological survey have come back to be posted not to the Geological Survey Department but sometimes to administrative posts.

I know a geologist who spent almost six years in the United Kingdom. On his return he was posted to an administrative post. I do not know what a geologist will be doing as an Administrative Officer. It is not only that his scholarship is wasted, but this aspect of the Department has been relegated to the background.

There is no use made of people who have specialised knowledge with the result that when we raise any question here on the Floor of this House, they tell us that enquiries have been made and nothing was found. In this respect I will mention Awka because in a town called Ugwuoba in Awka, about six years ago there was some indication that gas was found there. But up till now, no attempt is being made to exploit this gas or even to know whether the gas exists or not.

Also, there is large quantity of lime in Mbaise, and up till now no attempt is made by the Government to exploit this mineral. Last week I asked about the iron deposits in a town called Ndikilionwu in Awka Central. The Minister came back to tell me that he had not taken any step to go and find out whether there was iron deposits there or not.

We know that iron deposits are very precious mineral deposits. When, therefore, there is any rumour, no matter how unsubstantiated it is, that a certain mineral exists in any locality, I think it is the duty of the Government to go there and find out whether that mineral exists or not.

I seize this opportunity to ask the Minister of Mines and Power to take all his apparatus and go to this place to exploit the iron deposits in that area and tell us the extent, quality and quantity of the deposits.

I beg to support.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : This Head 54—Geological Survey Department—is something that I think hon. Members must take very important notice of. The Director

[MR ODULANA]

of Geological Survey Department is an expatriate, his Deputy is an expatriate—I can hear an hon. Member saying that there is no Director of Geological Survey Department because the post is vacant, but there was one there before.

If one looks at all the posts there, one will see that there are twenty-two geologists. How many of them are Nigerians? May I, therefore, appeal this morning to the Minister and to the Prime Minister who is the Chancellor of Ibadan University to include a Faculty of Geology in Ibadan University and also in all the other Universities in the country.

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu** (Owerri South East): On a point of order, the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) is only repeating the same thing over and over again. I would like to say that if the Member has nothing important to say on this Head, it would be a good thing if the Chairman, bearing in mind that there are other very important matters waiting to be discussed and that if the Member is allowed to go on these matters would not have any chance, would allow me to move that the Question be now put.

**The Chairman**: I think that so far it has taken the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) a longer time to raise his point of order than the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) has taken to make his speech.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

What I want the House to observe, as I was saying, is that I am directing my appeal to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Mines and Power to make it possible for a faculty of geology to be established in each of the universities in this country in no distant date. This will afford Nigerians with aptitude for geology an opportunity to be trained in this field and get them well equipped to be able to discover and look after our natural resources. It will be observed that in the years past expatriate geologists in this country had been concealing facts about our mineral resources. Those days are now gone. These expatriates, in the past, said that oil could not be found in commercial quantities in places like Obubra and Afam, but to-day it has been proved beyond reasonable doubt that not only can oil be found in these areas but also that the oil is of a

quality that can be classified among the best in the world, and that the oil is available in very great commercial quantities.

There is no doubt whatever that there are still other types of minerals which are still being concealed by these expatriate geologists. Take, for instance, the area from where I come—Ijebu South—where there are lots of hidden treasures like gold, diamond and oil. But these expatriate geologists conceal these facts because they do not want Nigeria to be rich; they want us to continue going a borrowing all over the world. If, however, our own men are trained as geologists, they will be able to serve Nigeria better. No true Nigerian will conceal any fact that can bring prosperity to his country as has been done in the past by our expatriate geologists. I am, therefore, asking the Governments of the Federation and the Minister of Mines and Power, through the Prime Minister, to take as an important matter the inclusion in our universities of the faculty of geology. This is the only way by which all our natural resources can be discovered and the way by which Nigeria may become richer.

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East): It would appear that the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) is ignorant of the fact that already there is a department of geology in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

**Mr Odulana**: The department of geology in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka is not enough to produce enough geologists to meet the needs of this country. I say that I want departments of geology to be established in all the universities of Nigeria. The Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) is only being tribalistic.

I also spoke about birates which has been found in Benue Province as far back as 1958. A number of expatriates formed themselves into a company to explore this mineral but up till now they have not thought it fit to start with the business. Yet to-day oil companies in Nigeria use birates to the tune of about half a million pounds, and the whole quantity is imported. This shows us how much Nigeria is losing by not putting her mineral resources into the hands of the right people. Limestone, a kind of mineral used in the making of cement, is another mineral that can be found anywhere in Nigeria. It can be found in Sokoto, in many places in the East and in many places in



House of Representatives Debates

1965

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

8 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1966

the West, and yet what we find is that a number of Europeans form themselves into a cement manufacturing company in which they use clinker and gypsum.

**The Chairman :** I appreciate the fact that the line between survey and exploitation of minerals may be very thin, but I think we must try and keep ourselves within the narrow limits.

**Mr Odulana :** If we have enough Nigerian geologists they will be able to convince our Government that minerals can be found in many places in the country and that these minerals must be exploited in no distant date, or, if necessary, immediately. But these expatriate geologists only tell us that these minerals are not available in a commercial quantity and thereby discourage our Government. Our own kith and kin certainly would neither deceive nor discourage us, rather they would encourage us to explore these minerals and thereby lead us to prosperity. This is what I mean when I say that the expatriates have not been useful to us in this field. We must train our own men as geologists, and all our universities can help us in this way by establishing departments of geology in their different universities, so that Nigeria can, in the near future, benefit from the knowledge and experience of her own people.

I beg to second.

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh** (Abaja and Ngwo) : I take very strong exception to the remarks of some Members about the geologists in this country, whether these geologists are Africans or Europeans. Members will agree with me that before some Members who are now talking about geology in this House were born, geologists discovered in this country certain minerals such as coal at Enugu. Mr Iva, an expatriate geologist, discovered coal at Enugu as far back as 1910. All experts, for that matter, have no reason to withhold information whenever such information is available. It is my opinion that geologists have done very good work for this country and what remains is for the Government to find money—

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : On a point of order, Mr Chairman—

**The Chairman :** What Standing Order ?

**Mr Okoronkwo :** Order 26 (2).

**The Chairman :** Order 26 (2) deals with relevancy. Is the Member for Abaja and Ngwo (*Mr Eneh*) irrelevant ?

**Mr Okoronkwo :** If the Chairman would let me point that out, I shall gladly do so.

**Mr Eneh :** When it is remembered that geologists spend about nine months of the year travelling in the bushes looking for information by which they can prepare maps for the Nation, it will be very awkward for any Member to come here and condemn them.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North) : Point of information, Mr Chairman—

**The Chairman :** May I appeal to Members who have any point of order, or any other point, to put across, to patiently wait until they are recognised. Otherwise, though we are physically in the Parliament, our debates would look like those carried on outside Parliament and in village meetings.

**Mr Eneh :** If information is withheld by geologists who are employed by companies prospecting for oil in the country, that is quite a different thing from saying that Government officials are also withholding information vital to the Government as far as mineral resources are concerned. As far as I know, it has not been proved by anybody that any geological surveyor has been found to sell his data to any company or other individual.

What I am saying is that this Government should make money available for prospecting for our mineral resources in order to produce them in commercial quantities. Let us deal with the minerals which have already been discovered. For instance, there is iron deposit within Enugu Escarpment to the tune of about one hundred million tons, and we have another deposit of iron ore in the North which is estimated to be about two hundred million tons ; but Government has not got the money to mine these deposits and use them for the benefit of the people. What we actually need is the money.

It is my opinion that these expatriate geologists deserve our praise and we have very great respect for them.

**M. Abdu Karim** (Muri East) : In supporting this Head, may I take this opportunity to ask that a geological surveyor be sent to the North, especially to Adamawa Province, because minerals exists in many parts of the Province.

[M. ABDU KARIM]

Although geological surveyors have been making frequent visits to Jalingo in the same Province, they have not been able to produce something worthwhile. It is my considered opinion that these people just go round to fill up their pockets with their bush allowances. I appeal to the Federal Government to award scholarships to our own boys to go abroad and study so that when they come back they will be of much better help to us.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power** (Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika): First of all, I would like to thank all Members who spoke on this Head, and also, with your permission, Mr Chairman, I would like to clarify a vague information which was given to this Parliament.

My hon. Friend, the Member for Owo South (*Mr Ajasin*) mentioned that there is diamond near Lagos. I assure this House that this is not true at all; and if the hon. Member will be so kind as to help the Government with the facts, the Government is ready, willing and able to exploit it.

The Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) said that the Director of the Department of Geology was an expatriate. I want to point out to him that the Acting Director is a Nigerian and the Deputy Director is also a Nigerian. In the course of his speech, the same hon. Member mentioned that geological departments should be created in our universities. I want to inform this honourable House that there is a Geological Department in the University of Ibadan and there is another one at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

In view of the fact that several Members have spoken at great length on this Head, I move that the question be now put.

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

£140,030 for Head 54—Geological Survey—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 55—MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

*Question proposed, That £1,193,770 for Head 55—Ministry of Transport—stand part of the Schedule.*

**M. Abba Yola** (Wudil): I rise to support this Head. I welcome the proposal by the Nigerian Railway Corporation to build an assembly plant for waggon; here.

I would also like to draw the attention of the Minister of Transport to the present lack of waggons and passenger trains which has put many passengers into a great deal of inconvenience. For some time now, second-class passengers have been using the same waggons with livestock. Moreover, the present lack of waggons is causing a great loss to the people of this country, especially traders in the North. In Kano, for instance, an expatriate company signed an agreement with a Kano trader for the supply of hides and skins. What happened was that this trader got ready these hides and skins but because there were no waggons he could not transport them down to the South from where they were supposed to be shipped overseas. Members will certainly sympathise with this trader not only because he lost so much on the hides and skins, but also because the expatriate company cancelled the agreement completely.

There is a third point that I want to touch upon and that is the Kano Airport. Several Members from Kano have spoken at great length about the efforts of the Federal Government to relegate the Kano Airport to the background. The Kano Airport was an international airport and was built at a cost of two to three million pounds during the colonial days. Unfortunately, it is being closed down now that matters are in our own hands. During the colonial days the airport was put in a correct position because Kano is the centre of trade in Africa, and it is also a better place for aeroplanes to land because it is the nearest Nigerian airport to London, India, America, Australia, African countries, *et cetera*.

So far, we cannot claim that we know better than the British people who selected that site for an international airport. There is no reason why that international airport should be closed down because we, the Kano people, enjoy amenities from the Federal Government through it. Before we could not understand why the airport was closed down, but after some time we came to know that there was nothing that led to this action but tribalism and nepotism. We, Kano people, are unhappy about what the Nigerian Government has done to us with regard to the closing down of that international airport. The Government has no ground at all for doing so. Therefore, we in Kano strongly blame the Minister in charge.

House of Representatives Debates

1969

[Appropriation (1964-65)

8 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1970

**The Minister of Transport** (Mr R. A. Njoku): In the absence of the Minister of Aviation, may I say that the Kano airport has not been closed down. There is no intention whatever of closing Kano airport down.

**Mallam Yola** : It is not true that the Kano airport has not been closed down. What the Minister said is not true. I am not from Maiduguri or somewhere else. I am from Kano.

**An hon. Member** : The Minister has just told us that the Kano airport has not been closed down but that some classes of airplanes have been banned from landing there. This signifies something like shutting it down.

**Mallam Yola** : I do not, Mr Chairman, want to mention the word tribalism, but I believe that if this airport had been built in Eastern Nigeria, it would not have been closed down because now the Port Harcourt harbour is being improved and it is learnt that the international airport at Kano will be transferred to Port Harcourt. That is what we learnt. It is no allegation ; it is quite true.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : On a point of order—

**The Chairman** : What Order ?

**Dr Okeke** : Order 26, paragraph 2.

**The Chairman** : It deals with irrelevancy. Are you saying that the hon. Member is irrelevant ?

**Dr Okeke** : Yes. According to the Standing Order, the hon. Member is becoming irrelevant. The Minister of Transport has explained to this House that Kano airport is not shut down. The hon. Member is irrelevant.

**The Chairman** : The hon. Member speaking has repeated himself but that does not amount to irrelevancy.

**Mallam Yola** : Finally, I am sorry to say that the Minister of Aviation concerned is not here. Although he is not the one who closed down the airport, he is the one in charge now. We are now very lucky to have a dynamic Minister on whose portfolio—

**Mr Njoku** : On a point of order, I am sorry that my hon. Friend who is speaking persists in repeating. I have told him that the airport

at Kano is not closed down. As a matter of fact, when I travelled two months ago, we touched down at Kano. We used the Kano airport and planes are using it almost everyday. He may say that he wants more landing there ; that is a different question from saying that it is closed down.

**Mallam Yola** : I do not want to make any argument in this Parliament. What I am saying is quite true. Aeroplanes no more land in Kano. The airport hotel has been closed down. There is no enjoyment, nothing. Aeroplanes can land and stay for only 30 minutes.

We are now very lucky to have a dynamic Minister under whose term of office the Kano airport was built. He is Dr K. O. Mbadiwe and he is very sociable and dynamic. He is strongly against tribalism and nepotism. It was during his time that the airport was opened and it was he who performed the official opening of that international airport. We are now lucky to have him back so that the Kano international airport will be made to function in full force.

**Mr N. E. Elenwa** (Ahoada West) : My point of order is Order 26 (2). The hon. Member who is speaking is speaking on Aviation, but we are dealing with Transport.

**Mallam Yola** : What I want the Government to do is to restore Kano airport to its former status. That is all.

I support the Head.

**M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed** (Kubau Soba) : In contributing to this Head, with your permission, Sir, I would like to mention a few thing ?.

In 1962 I moved a Motion on the Floor of this House asking the Federal Government to institute a commission of inquiry into a certain section of the Ministry of Transport, and in the course of my Motion I did really mention about the Nigerian Dock Labour Contracts.

Last year, there was a wide controversy in Nigeria with regard to contracts in the Nigerian Docks. I would therefore like the Minister concerned to make a categorical statement as far as dock labour contract is concerned, and as to whether the Minister would resume distributing contracts in the Nigerian Docks or would leave things as they are now.

[M. MOHAMMED]

The Nigerian Railway Corporation is a very large Department which needs a separate Ministry, because it relates to home affairs. As far as this is concerned it does not need any Chairman to head it. The present Chairman, Dr O. Ikejiani, should be removed from his present office. (*Interruptions.*)

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North) : On a point of order, I think it is a tradition in this House not to allow any discussion in the course of which we have to mention names of individuals who are not in this House. I think a very dangerous precedence is being created, and if the Member for Kubaur Soba (*M. Yusha'u Mohammed*) is not called to order, he is mainly inviting trouble, and he is going to have it in full measure.

**The Chairman** : Order ! May I ask Members kindly to co-operate in making the proceedings continue smoothly this morning. I do not think we need to invite rowdiness unnecessarily. If one disagrees with anything, I think one is quite free to speak on principle. But if we are going to get down into mentioning names we might be inviting debates that might tend towards being in the chorus.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji** (Egba East) : On a point of order, while I understand the Chairman's ruling to mean that nobody can mention names of people who are not in this House, I think that is an important point. That, also, is an unusual type of ruling in my view, but I may be wrong.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of order, the Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*) has no right to question the ruling of the Chairman.

**The Chairman** : Order ! I think I have been long in this Parliament either on the Floor or on the Chair to know it as a ruling which has been handed over from Chair to Chair. It is not allowed to start mentioning the names in critical terms of persons who are not in this House, because they cannot defend themselves.

**Chief D. A. Ogunleye** (Ede-Ejigbo) : On a point of information, I think from my understanding it is being said that people should not mention names, but in this case we are dealing with a particular Ministry. The Minister is here to refute any point that might be said in

respect of any officer. There is no reason why we should not mention names in this respect.

**The Chairman** : There is a clear distinction between a person and his office, and I think that is elementary enough.

**M. Yusha'u Mohammed** : As I was saying I pointed out that the Nigerian Railway Corporation is an important Department, and I would like the Federal Government to consider that it is important enough to warrant the creation of a separate Ministry for that Corporation.

In addition, from the reports received yearly, one will find that the Nigerian Railway Corporation is not progressing. The Nigerian Railway Corporation seems to be losing yearly, and this is the fault of the Minister concerned.

He should have organised a better way of improving this arm of his Ministry. So, the Minister of Transport should consider it more important to serve Nigeria through the Nigerian Railway Corporation than he is doing now, because at the present moment the people of Nigeria are having difficulties as far as the Nigerian Railway Corporation is concerned.

I think all I would like to say is that the Minister of Transport should make a categorical statement again on the Floor of this House with regard to dock labour contracts and as to whether or not he intends to continue to distribute contracts in the Nigerian Docks.

I am also asking the Minister of Transport to remove the present Chairman, and that the Federal Government should create a separate Ministry for the Nigerian Railway Corporation.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr P. O. Eleke** (Okigwi South East) : While I rise to support the Estimates on this Head, I want to congratulate the Minister of Transport for the proposed railway extension from the Western Region through the Mid-Western Region to the Eastern Region, and also for the Bornu Railway Extension which is almost completed.

I understand the route for the railway extension from the West to the East has been considered. Those of us from the East through whose constituencies the railway might probably pass are very happy and are looking forward to the time when the railway authorities will begin the actual work on the

*House of Representatives Debates*

1973

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

8 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1974

line. If the Minister wants more money for this railway extension we are prepared to approve it.

For some time now indigenous transport owners have been complaining very seriously against what they have described as the monopoly of the transport system by non-Nigerians in Nigeria.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) rose. (*Interruptions*)

**The Chairman** : Order ; order. What point of order is the Member trying to raise.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** : I wish to refer to Standing Order 36.

**The Chairman** : No please, Standing Order 36 deals with irrelevancy.

**Mr Eleke** : As I was saying, the Association of Transport Owners complains of some discrimination against them by expatriate firms who are very fond of transferring their transport business to non-Nigerians. I say this with particular reference to the Syrians. Apart from this type of monopoly, the indigenous transport owners are made to face a very competitive situation with richer capitalists.

As a result of this unfair competition indigenous transport owners in Nigeria are on the verge of closing down their business. May I humbly appeal that these expatriates be banned from this unfair competition with indigenous transporters.

I beg to support.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji** (Egba East) : I would like to talk very briefly on the Railway Corporation. The Railway Corporation was set up to serve the people of this nation particularly in the field of commerce.

*Several hon. Members rose—*

**The Chairman** : Order, order. According to Parliamentary dictionary we know Standing Committees to be Committees lasting throughout the year and not Committees that stand in the House. So will Members keep to their seats.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji** : I was saying that one finds, probably because the Railway Corporation has a monopoly of the railway operation

in the country, that the Corporation wants people to just kow-tow to it. The businessmen in the country who use the railway are hard put to it to get the type of service they should get. The reasons for this I do not know but I have dared to suggest one.

In particular I would like to refer to the position where if people want to consign their goods they have to wait for a long time before those goods are consigned. Maybe it is due to the shortage of railway rollingstock.

Whatever it may be due to, the railway is a commercial organisation and should cater for the needs of the people. It should realise that the customers are always right. It should go out of its way to please customers. It should not expect itself to be worshipped.

The Railway Corporation has got to such an extent where it is asking customers themselves to advance money to buy rollingstock. Why should businessmen who want to use the railway and who want to pay for the services which the railway renders to them, and out of which the railway is supposed to maintain itself and show profit, be asked to provide money to buy rollingstock for the railway to operate with? This is because the railway is a monopoly.

But the Government should ensure, even though the Corporation is a Government owned organisation, it is expected to serve the people and not try to bully people around to show them that whether they liked it or not, it is the Corporation that runs the transport and that without it the people cannot exist. This is an important point especially from the point of view of the economic development of the nation.

It is alright extending our lines from Lagos to Maiduguri and other places. But if the service is bad then the railway will make more loss if it has a longer line to operate.

The next thing I want to talk about is what has been current in the country in the past three or four weeks. There has been a great deal of accusation of sectionalism in the Railway Corporation. This is a bad thing for the country and I think that the less we talk about it the better. We cannot afford at this stage of our development to bring extraneous matters

[CHIEF ROSIJI]  
which will damage the name and reputation of the country.

It is therefore very important that whoever is in a position of authority and of trust should be particularly cautious in whatever he does. In an atmosphere which is charged—whether the charge is right or wrong whether it is reasonable or unreasonable—whenever is in the position of authority must be very cautious so that the position is not worsened.

I want to refer in particular to the incident of the suspension of one Mr Alade. A lot of interpretations have been given to this in the *press* and we have all read them. This tends to make the situation deteriorate. Whatever the reason the Chairman of the Railway Corporation may have had to have taken such a step, it is quite obvious that the step was taken at a very wrong time. What is painful about the situation is the boast of this Chairman as was reported in the *press*.

He boasted that he was going to discipline more people and these people come from one section. He boasted that he was God Almighty and that he had all the power on earth. All these things are not good. I think that this Chairman seems to be particularly flippant. There are other words which I should use and which are relevant but which do not sound nice. I would rather not use them.

But the Minister of Transport should look into this matter. If it is indeed true that the Chairman intends to take further action, I think that he should be stopped right now. This particular Chairman has no respect even for his Minister. This is the truth.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South): Under Standing Order 26 (2), the hon. Gentleman is really trying to impute motives and he is giving very wrong impressions of the character of the Chairman.

**The Chairman**: May I say that the speech of the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) has been most decorous and unprovocative.

I think that the rules of this House guarantee anyone the right of speech when he is well within the scope of the Standing Orders. It is a debate in Chamber and if anyone has a reply he can give it when the time comes.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North): Standing Order 26 (2) (a) says—

**The Chairman**: Order! There is no Standing Order 26 (2) (a). I would invite the hon. Member to desist from raising the point. If he is raising a point under what he refers to as Standing Order 26 (2) (a), then he is referring to the Standing Order which does not belong to this House.

**Mr Mbah**: I meant 26 (2).

**The Chairman**: Order! I have already ruled that 26 (2) does not apply in this case, and if it is the resolve of anyone to question this ruling he is open to comply with further provisions of the Standing Orders for questioning rulings from the Chair.

**Chief Rosiji**: I think that it will be in the interest of this nation and of all other people that are concerned if, when somebody does something wrong, we have the right to say it. We are not in this House to protect the interest of one person or a particular section. We are here to protect the interest of the nation at large.

What I said earlier about the Minister—I meant it. I can prove what I have said because I was told directly myself by this same Chairman that whoever raised his finger to hurt him, would have his neck crushed. And that included his own Minister.

**The Chairman**: Order! I have already said that the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) started very well and was sailing on nicely. May I then invite him to please return to the original trend?

**Chief Rosiji**: I did not intend to provoke anybody. I only said that as an example of what the Minister should look into, and one of the reasons why this man must be checked. He seems to be a law unto himself, so long as he can brag about himself and does not care what happens to the nation.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah**: I rise on a point of order. Standing Order 26 (2) says—

*A Member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto.*

House of Representatives Debates

1977

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

8 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1978

The Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) is absolutely irrelevant. He is discussing the conduct of the Chairman who is not in a position to defend himself and who has got nothing to do with the subject matter. Furthermore, the Member is also challenging your ruling, Mr Chairman.

**The Chairman :** Order ! With all that is going on it becomes difficult to say who is challenging the Chair. May I please appeal to the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) to kindly exercise some restraint.

As I have already said, his speech so far has been very well within the range of dignified restraint. I am, therefore, appealing to him to portray that dignity. But if the House has to go into an uncontrollable commotion on this matter, I will put the Question.

**Chief Rosiji :** The things I have so far said were said in the interest of the nation. The question of sectionalism must be stopped especially by those of us who are in a position to do so. And we must all try to win the confidence of all the sections of the country. In a situation which is explosive we should be particularly careful.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : Under Standing Order 26 (2)—

**The Chairman :** Order ! I have already made three rulings on this and if Members are not prepared to wait to hear the Minister's explanation, and if we are going to have this rowdiness, I will put the Question.

**Chief Rosiji :** As I was saying, the Chairman of the Railway Corporation has his mandate from this Government acting through the Minister of Transport. The Minister of Transport is the man-in-charge. He is the man who gave him his letter of appointment but he now seems to be above all laws. And I do not know where he claims to have got his authority from. (*Prolonged interruptions*).

**The Chairman :** Order, order. Will the Minister of Transport please reply ?

*Mr S. D. Lar rose.*

**The Chairman :** I have to suspend the sitting for ten minutes.

*Sitting suspended : 12 noon.*

*Sitting resumed : 12.10 p.m.*

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : On a point of order—

**The Chairman :** Please state the number of your order.

**Mr Lar :** The number of the Order is 32 (1). It reads as follows :

*Subject to paragraph (2) of this order and subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) of Standing Order 63 (Appropriation Bill), no Member shall be entitled to address the House or a committee of the whole House for more than thirty minutes on any subject.*

The time limit for every Member of the House is thirty minutes, and, to the best of my knowledge, the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) has not reached that limit.

**The Chairman :** We can only run democracy and enforce the Standing Orders with the co-operation of the well-intentioned Members of this House. I am very grateful to the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) for his co-operation on this matter.

The Member for Lowland East (*Mr Lar*) has said that the Member for Egba East has not exhausted his time, but the Member for Egba East has kindly co-operated in order to ensure that the meeting continues with decorum. Much as I appreciate the move of the Member for Lowland East to ensure that every Member enjoys his rights, I am quite sure that he cannot say the exact time that the hon. Gentleman started speaking. We have had people complain of others exceeding their time, but this one is not very certain.

I am grateful, once again, to the Member for Egba East for his co-operation.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : There is a stranger in the House. May I point out that the man sitting behind me here is not a Member of this House.

*The Stranger withdrew.*

**Several hon. Members :** *Ole, ole, ole !* (*Prolonged interruptions*).

**The Chairman :** I think it is necessary for us to appreciate that much disorder can be caused by people not minding their own business. We are grateful to the hon. Member who drew the attention of the House to the

[THE CHAIRMAN]

presence of that man who is not a Member of the House, but we must remember that we have got the Sergeant-at-Arms and other Members of the Parliament to take care of such an irregularity. Would Members please turn their attention to the proceedings of the House and let the appropriate officers of the Parliament take care of the new situation.

I see the Member for Idoma North (*Mr Ede*) rise on a point of information, but the Minister of Transport will not yield. (*Interruptions*).

May I appeal once again, and finally, to all Members. I must say that if we are not going to have any order simply because of the debate on the Ministry of Transport, we may have to come to a decision and move on to something else.

*Whereupon the Minister of Finance rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put ; but the Chairman withheld his assent and declined then to put that Question.*

**The Chairman :** I have tried to put the Question, and there was too much rowdiness. May I kindly appeal for the co-operation of Members. Members have made some points and the Minister has got up to reply. It would be highly indecorous not to give him a hearing.

All along Members have complained about Ministers not being around to answer questions. May I therefore appeal to Members again to listen to him. I think it is to the credit of this nation that since parliamentary government started in Nigeria, there has been no occasion, whether outside or inside Parliament, when we resorted to extreme powers. People have always trusted our sound common sense, and I do not see any reason why we should change now.

*Several Members rose.*

**The Chairman :** I must say that any Member who does not wish to hear the Minister is quite free to leave, otherwise the Sergeant-at-Arms might help such a Member out if this becomes necessary.

**The Minister of Transport (Mr R. A. Njoku) :** I must say that I am grateful to the Members who have already spoken on this Head. The first Member was the Member for Wudil (*M. Abba Yola*) who complained about

the insufficiency of waggons. I want to assure him that I am aware of this deficiency and that steps are being taken to remedy the situation.

During the financial year which has just started, 800 waggons will be provided and the first of these will be arriving in about six month's time. (*Applause.*)

There was another point made by the Member for Kubau Soba (*M. Yusha'u Mohammed*) about Dock Labour contracts. I am very glad that the hon. Member did not try to flog what I regard as a dead horse. I can assure him that the matter is now being considered by the Federal Government.

The question of the award of contracts, whether to the old firms doing the contracts or to new firms, is now being considered by the Federal Government. A decision will be taken by the Government and it is not proper for me now to anticipate what this decision will be. But, I can assure the hon. Gentleman that when this decision is given, I am sure he will appreciate it and that it will be in the best interest of all sections of this country. It is not a matter on which the Minister is using his discretion. It is a matter now which the Minister has taken to the Cabinet, and the Cabinet will be taking a decision very soon.

I thank the Member for Okigwi South East (*Mr Eleke*) for what he said.

My friend the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) spoke. He had a discussion with me sometime yesterday as a good friend and Colleague in Government at one time, and we discussed quite a few things. I am aware of the controversy going on in the newspapers during the past few weeks. There is no doubt that all of us feel quite unhappy about the whole situation and that everything should be done to stop that sort of controversy arising again, and also to see that it does not continue much longer. That sort of thing is an ill wind which blows nobody any good.

I do not want to go into the details because I do not think it would do us any good. But because of the fact that people have raised this point at several other meetings, I will only refer Members, first of all, to the rejoinder which was issued by the Railway Corporation. I refused to say anything because I do not like making wild allegations or giving answers to points unless I am satisfied that those answers



House of Representatives Debates

1981

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

8 APRIL 1964

Bill Committee]

1982

are correct. As I have said on more than one occasion before, everyone of us is capable of causing confusion and trouble in this country, but some of us choose not to do so, not that we cannot do it.

I want to say that I have no intention on this occasion to go into the various accusations. All I have to say is that the accusations have been made and I saw to it that no hurried answers were given. Officials of these various Organisations have gone into the whole matter and for this the Management in each case produced an answer, and I will refer Members to the answer which was produced by the Railway Corporation and, this morning, hon. Members got the answer which was produced by the Ports Authority.

As I said, I do not want to reopen these matters now. I think everyone of us can read for himself and form the right conclusions.

May I appeal to hon. Members to help the Government and to help this country by trying to tell our people the truth. If we tell our people the truth, that is all. Hon. Members should not add anything or subtract anything, they should just let the people have the truth.

As regards the conduct of the Chairman, as has been alleged—as I said the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) and I discussed the whole matter and he told me what he said here. In fact, he told me a little more and I am glad that he did not say everything because, as an experienced man, he knows that it is not everything that one hears that one says. I got in touch with the Chairman and he told me that he did not make these statements.

One other point—that of suspension. I must say that I have looked into the matter and had various discussions. It is true that these are troubled times and things that would perhaps not cause trouble or commotion in normal times are likely to do so.

What I would like to say is that it is not right, and I have been assured by the Corporation that there is no victimisation. I called in the Chairman, the General Manager and the Secretary of the Corporation and I spoke to them. I told them that there should be no question of discrimination, there should be no question of victimisation of anybody, no

matter where he comes from and, as a matter of fact—I am sorry to say this, but it is true—that what the newspapers tell us about these Corporations—the relationship between the employees—is not the real picture. If hon. Members go there, they will find the workers working as normally as before. If hon. Members doubt what I have just said, they can go to the Railway Corporation and they will find the workers working as normally as before. I do not think that we should come to this House and try to help the newspapers in their speculation and exaggeration.

I am appealing to Members to let the matter rest at that.

One point about the suspension—the suspension is in accordance with the “Standing Conditions of Service of Officers, 1962”. Hon. Members should remember also that the Railway Corporation has got an Indigenous Officers Association including all the Nigerian Officers, and these people have also taken up the matter with the Management.

The gentleman was interdicted according to Sections 414, 415 and 416 of the Standing Conditions of Service of the Corporation. This has happened before. He will then go through a Disciplinary Committee of officials of the Corporation.

I can hear an hon. Member say that the gentleman should go through the Disciplinary Committee first. If the hon. Member has been in the Government service or in the service of a Corporation before, he would know that interdiction takes place *before* the case goes to the Disciplinary Committee.

I have told the Corporation that this gentleman must not be victimised at all, and that under no circumstances should he be penalised against the conditions of Service and the Regulations.

I want to say that the threat (if there is any threat at all) of more people being suspended, is not going to come through. There is no threat. I heard of this and I asked the officials of the Corporation and I was told that there was no threat at all. I told the officials that it is wrong to threaten any Nigerian because Nigerians have every authority to live and work in their country.

## [MINISTER OF TRANSPORT]

I want to assure hon. Members that there will be no question of victimisation of any section of this country. There can be no question of victimisation.

This is the last year of this House, and some of us have been here for a long time and we have always been friends. I do not want us this last year to part as enemies. Whether we come back to this Parliament or not, we are still in the same country.

I want to say that I do not mind being criticised by any side of the House, including the side of my own party, but let the criticism come genuinely and constructively. I do not mind it at all.

The Ministers are here as your servants, and if hon. Members feel that Ministers are not doing anything properly, it is up to hon. Members to tell us; if they tell us, we will explain why we have done the thing the way we have done it. If hon. Members are not satisfied, they can ask the Minister concerned for an interview and go and discuss it with him.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : Or resign.

**Mr Njoku** : The Minister can be asked to resign if it comes to that.

I want to say on this issue of discrimination that hon. Members who know me well know that I am not the sort of person who will discriminate against any section of Nigeria. I am not that sort of person.

**Mr Odulana** : On a point of order, Standing Order 26(2).

**The Chairman** : The Minister is not irrelevant. Standing Order 26(2) deals with irrelevancy and, so far, the Minister has been replying to points raised and I do not think he is irrelevant.

**Mr Njoku** : Finally, I want to thank hon. Members again for all they have said, and to assure them that what they have complained about is well in hand, and I will do my best to see that nobody is victimised.

£1,193,770 for Head 55—Ministry of Transport—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

## HEAD 56.—COASTAL AGENCY

£139,150 for Head 56—Coastal Agency—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

## HEAD 57.—INLAND WATERWAYS

£828,200 for Head 57—Inland Waterways—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

## HEAD 58.—WORKS AND SURVEYS

Question proposed, That £6,845,500 for Head 58—Ministry of Works and Surveys—stand part of the Schedule.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys** (Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) : At the last Session, I explained to hon. Members that the Road Programme of my Ministry is based on a forecast of traffic growth and economic potential in the next ten-year period. I also explained that it was a two-phased Road Development Programme estimated at a total cost of £195,453,000.

The first phase of this programme estimated—(Interruptions.)

**The Chairman** : Order, order ! Please, may I appeal to Members to kindly listen to the points the Minister is making. It is against the Standing Order to repeat points already made.

**Alhaji Inuwa Wada** : The first phase of this programme estimated to cost £100,000,000 consists of four categories of road projects designed to—

(a) provide easy access to ports; e.g., the approach roads to Lagos, the Port Harcourt-Aba road and the Lagos-Ikorodu Road;

(b) serve industrial areas; e.g., Gusau-Sokoto Road; Sokoto-Jaredi-Yelwa Road, Onitsha-Owerri and Shagamu-Benin Road;

(c) implement agreements reached with other African countries to foster African unity and solidarity; e.g., Otta-Idiroko Road and Tegina-Daura Road;

(d) keep the other roads not in the present plan open by rehabilitation and bridge strengthening, e.g., Ilorin-Ajasse Road, Aba-Oron Road, Ikorodu-Ibadan Road and Bama-Goza Road.

Hon. Members will recall that because of Government's decision to give greater priority in the Six-Year Development Plan to agricultural and industrial projects only £45,000,000 of the estimated cost of £100,000,000 was approved for inclusion in the plan to meet the

*House of Representatives Debates*

1985

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

8 APRIL 1964

[Bill Committee]

1986

projects of the first phase. It is this limited financial provision which has made it impossible to meet the large number of requests for road developments in various parts of the country.

Furthermore, in order to follow strictly the assumption of the plan, the timing of execution of projects very often depends on the outcome of negotiations which the Federal Ministry of Finance has to make to secure necessary finance. The difficulty of arranging external finance has delayed the commencement of the approach roads to Lagos, the Beni-Sheikh-Maiduguri road and the second mainland bridge, in respect of all of which the necessary designs have been completed.

I am happy to report, however, that at the end of the second year considerable progress has been made. Work has begun on the reconstruction of Otta-Idiroko road and is expected to be completed by the end of the next dry season. The Sokoto-Jaredi road has been completed and the remaining six or seven miles of the Shagamu-Benin road will be completed in about two months. The Funtua-Gusau road should be completed early in the next dry season and there is every hope of completing the Tegina-Daura road by May 1965, according to schedule. The Niger bridge will be ready for use about May 1965. Work on the Donga River bridge and the Malu road bridge is progressing satisfactorily and is half completed.

A substantial proportion of the first phase of the development of Lagos water supply is being financed from the United Kingdom loan. The installation of additional filters and sedimentation tanks is progressing satisfactorily. A firm of American consultants has been commissioned to prepare a feasibility report and other documentation required to support an application for the United States Agency for International Development, otherwise known as USAID, loan for the second phase of the development of Lagos water supply.

It is gratifying to note, Mr Chairman, that Nigerian contractors are now participating in the execution of some of the civil engineering contracts. They are employed largely on bridge reconstruction and road rehabilitation, and among them are those handling contracts of well over £400,000.

Nigerian contractors are already established in the building construction industry, and they

should continue to grow not only with such financial help as the Government can render, but especially if, as advised by me last year, they succeed in pooling together their resources.

Some progress has been made in determining a suitable organisation for ensuring that the work of the Federal Building Research Institute at Zaria is geared to the needs of the country. An Advisory Council has been formed which is composed of representatives not only of the Regions, but also of professional bodies, Universities and the Federation of Building and Civil Engineering Contractors. This representation would ensure that all those who have an interest, direct or indirect, in the building industry are associated with the work of the Research Institute.

The Survey Division continues to press forward with the task of extending the topographical map coverage of the country at a basic scale of one to fifty thousand. It is also vigorously pursuing the large scale mapping of the Lagos Federal territory. Hon. Members may be interested to know that the first edition of a Street Map of Lagos was published on October 1st, 1963 to coincide with the declaration of Lagos as a City. The map has been found to be very popular and a revised second edition will be published soon. The Division is also collecting materials for the publication of a National Atlas of Nigeria.

The bulk of the work of our topographical mapping is being done under the very generous assistance we are receiving from the Governments of the United Kingdom and Canada and I would like once again to express appreciation to these Governments for their help. But we are at present only touching the fringe of our mapping problem and we must face the fact that our Survey Division must be fully equipped not only to carry on with the work but also to be able to keep up to date, by continuous revision, the maps being compiled under technical assistance.

I am very conscious of the risk involved in the processing of the aerial photographs of this country overseas and in printing our maps abroad. The Survey Division is therefore being re-organised so that it may be better suited to serve the needs of a sovereign state. Honourable Members will recollect that last year I said that as part of this re-organisation

[ALHAJI INUWA WADA] a Nigerian was being appointed to take charge of the Survey Division. The Federal Government also secured the services of a Map Production Adviser under the Canadian Technical Assistance to advise on the reorganisation of the Map Reproduction Branch. He has submitted a report and I have accepted his recommendations in principle. Copies of this report are now with the Ministries of Economic Development, Establishments and Finance in order to assess its full implication.

Also when I spoke last year the Survey Division had only one photogrammetric plotting machine and was operating one field headquarters at Makurdi. I am pleased to say that the Division now has five plotting machines and more are on order. Training has been intensified at all levels. A field headquarters is being opened at Sokoto so that the provision of geodetic control and the production of maps can be accelerated.

My Honourable Friend, the Member for Igbirra (*Mallam Abdul*) stated in this House on the 25th of March, this year, that the present number of survey schools in this country is inadequate and pleaded that efforts should be made to increase the number. There are at present three survey schools in Nigeria; the Federal Survey School, Okene, the Northern Nigeria Survey School, Zaria and the Western Nigeria School of Surveying, Oyo. The Federal Survey School was originally intended to be very elementary and to teach only the rudiments of surveying at a time when trainees with the requisite educational qualifications were not forthcoming and we were depending on external assistance for everything except routine survey work. This has now ceased. For if we are to produce officers with the knowledge and skill required to meet our commitments under the Development Plan, we must raise the standard of training and establish a school with modern and up-to-date equipment.

The Federal Survey School, Okene, has therefore been completely reorganised and it now provides a full basic course in surveying and an advanced course. This school has however been operating under very difficult conditions with accommodation provided by tents and bamboo sheds. The present provision under the Capital Estimates has been found to be inadequate for the necessary buildings and equipment. I have therefore

asked for additional provision and if I succeed in getting it, it should be possible for buildings to start at Okene this year.

The Northern Nigeria Survey School, Zaria, runs both Basic and Advanced Courses.

The Western Nigeria School of Surveying, Oyo, is the successor to the old Survey School. It now runs three main courses:

(i) A sandwiched course which consists of the basic course followed by practical training in the field for at least one year and on advanced course;

(ii) A course leading up to the intermediate examination of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors; and

(iii) A special diploma course for graduates in subjects related to surveying preparatory to their proceeding overseas for further training.

We are already making use of the facilities at the School of Surveying, Oyo, for training officers for the Federal Surveys.

In addition to these schools, the University of Nigeria Nsukka, offers a degree course in land surveying and the Ahmadu Bello University is proposing to do likewise.

At the Survey Conference in Jos in January, this year, the Professional Survey Officers of all the Governments of the Federation discussed training and after careful consideration, decided to recommend to their respective Governments that the needs of the Federation could be adequately met by the Survey Schools at Okene and Oyo and that what was required was that these two institutions should be adequately staffed and expanded.

The Survey Division is, however, still faced with the shortage of field surveyors. This was eased by the appointment of eight surveyors from the Phillipines. As a result of an intensive recruitment drive recruiting prospects have improved slightly but there is still room for improvement. I would therefore appeal to qualified Nigerian with degrees in Physics, Mathematics and Geography, who are interested in a life of adventure to come forward and make a career in surveying.

**Mr S. O. Kolade (Oyo South):** I need to congratulate the Minister of Works and Surveys for the improvement so far made in the Ministry since his appointment. Last year we suffered

*House of Representatives Debates*

1989

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

8 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1990

greatly because of floods and it caused a lot of wastage. I think more money should be expended on the improvement of our roads because it will be a shame this year to have another flood washing away our roads.

I have noticed that the Federal Government is working strenuously to see that the roads are maintained. Those of us who travelled through Ikorodu Road saw that a lot of work is being done on the road. I also noticed that the work has been given to an indigenous contractor—Oni & Sons. This is evidence of what the Minister has just said. I think the more we give work to our people the better it will be for us. Our people will get enough work to do and realise that they have the right type of politicians who actually feel for them. It will also be a kind of training for them.

Africans are a strong and healthy people who are not afraid of hard work. Most of our people have not enough money to do the work they would like to do. Once they are given the right opportunity they can do anything anyone can do anywhere in the world. The work which is being done on our roads is only fair. In fact, I think more work should be done on our roads. Most of these roads are undulating. If one is not very careful in driving one's car the car swerves from one side of the road to another.

When the Minister wants to inspect roads before giving the final allotment of payments, these roads should be well inspected. Most of the accidents are due to bad roads. There are also some drivers who drive at high speeds, but they should be arrested and charged by the Nigerian Police. The roads which the Ministry of Works and Surveys is preparing should be the best type of roads.

The floods of last year brought hardship to the people of Lagos. We know that people in Lagos obtain their food from the interior. When the roads were flooded last year, food from the Western Region, Eastern Region, Northern Region and the Mid-West became very scarce and there was a lot of profiteering. Some of the food became very bad for consumption because of its staying very long on the way. So I hope that this year, if the roads are improved, they will withstand the floods. Now, as the work is progressing fairly satisfactorily, we hope the Ministry will continue to make more efforts to improve on this.

Many contractors are praising the present Minister of Works because he has been giving his works to indigenous contractors. The more he continues to do this, the better it will be for this country. With reference to the amount and grade of work that should be given to indigenous contractors, it is said that only those who have up to £100,000 need be given most of the jobs. But unfortunately only very few Nigerian contractors can afford this amount. And most of these people are willing to work and are really good in their performance.

It is therefore my suggestion that it would be a very good idea if the Federal Government would recommend these people to the Federal Banks for some loans, with which to carry out their work. Surely, these banks will gain by way of interests when the money is paid back after the job is completed. If the money is given to indigenous contractors in this way, they will be most grateful to the Government and will know that the Government is interested in their welfare, and so they will carry out whatever assignments they receive cheerfully and happily.

There is another way in which the Government can seek to assist these contractors, and that is by purchasing some of the costly implements for the contractors to come and borrow, so that some of the contractors may find it easy to carry out their jobs and pay hiring fees to the Government in respect of these tools. Anybody who knows he can get some money from the bank with the assistance of the Government and get a contract, and also be able to borrow the implements, will surely be most diligent in his work when doing it. This will be one of the best kinds of encouragement we can give to our indigenous contractors. This will in turn prevent the capitalists from carrying away all our money as they have continued to do all these years.

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South):** On a point of information, I think what the hon. Member is stressing is that if the Government gives our contractors the opportunity of going to the P.W.D. and borrowing some of these implements namely the bull dozers, caterpillars and so on, then those expatriates will not be talking all sorts of things. They keep saying that Nigerian contractors have no implements with which to work.

**Mr Kolade :** That is exactly what I am trying to say. We also see some of these expatriates being foundation engineer. Members will remember that now houses—very solid houses for that matter—are being erected at the Victoria Island. I do not think we have got any Nigerian who is a foundation engineer. Why should the Government not send some Nigerians abroad to study this branch of engineering.

I hear an hon. Member say that we have such people in the civil service, but I think that is wrong. We have not got any. We need some of these people so as to enable us have specialists in this field. We need to award scholarships to students in this branch of learning. Members will remember that we have always been told that a house built on sand cannot stand. But now we see solid houses being built on sand and they stand firmly. I do sincerely hope that the Government will try in this respect.

I now go over to the Audit Report. We have some losses in the Audit Report emanating from the Ministry of Works, and these losses were not recovered.

**The Chairman :** Order. I think this Audit Report has been discussed. The question of losses generally, I think has been dealt with exhaustively on the Floor of this House and I do not think we should waste further time on that.

**Mr Kolade :** Before I resume my seat, I wish to congratulate the Minister for the Survey School established at Oyo. I also need to thank all the students of that institution and all the members of the staff for the invaluable services they have been rendering to the people of Oyo. I should like the Minister to convey our thanks to the Principal of that institution for coming into our place, measuring the place, drawing plans and maps of the schools and colleges and producing all of them free of charge. These maps are very useful to the schools. The students do not any longer consider what they are being taught as theoretical. They now see everything practically.

While on that institution, may I appeal to the Minister to increase the number of the buildings in that institution, because the ones there at the moment are choked up. If we get new houses erected there—

**The Chairman :** Order. I was thinking the hon. Member was trying to use the question of this institution as an example of what the Ministry of Works and Surveys can do. But now, the Minister has already reminded the hon. Member in an under tone, that that is a Regional establishment.

**Mr Kolade :** I think the Minister is working in conjunction with the Regional Government.

**The Chairman :** That type of co-ordination is unconstitutional.

**Mr Kolade :** I earnestly congratulate the Minister of Works for the work he has done, and the sooner he tries harder on these matters, the better it will be for Nigeria.

I beg to support.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) :** I want to be very brief in my remarks. First and foremost, I want to thank the hon. Minister of Works and Surveys for the very good work done in respect of the Lagos-Ikorodu-Ibadan Road, particularly for the promptness with which he resuscitated the commercial life of the City of Lagos immediately after the flood. I would like to ask the Minister to continue this job of strengthening the roads, and that the Government should not at any time think of diverting the road from linking Lagos with Ikorodu town.

I wish also to thank the Minister because I find in the programme of the Ministry that there is a programme for the Western Avenue-Agege Motor Road new road, and I think that this is one of the things for which the Ministry is to be thanked. We would like to know on the Floor of this House how soon work will commence on the Agege Motor Road-Western Avenue new road. I would like to know, while thanking the Minister for the good work he has done, how soon work on the Lagos-Benin Road will be completed.

The Minister's job is one that needs no criticism. He is a silent worker, trying to work quietly to improve the roads in the whole country, and that being so, his work is like the good wine which needs no boost.

**The Chairman :** Order. It is now 1 o'clock and sitting is suspended till 3 o'clock.

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*House of Representatives Debates*

1993

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

8 APRIL 1964

Bill Committee]

1994

*Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.*

*House in Committee.*

**Mr Ogunsanya :** As I was saying before, it is more a question of thanking the Minister of Works and asking him to continue the good work very ably done during the life of the present Parliament.

As I said earlier on, the rebuilding of the second half of Western Avenue is now well overdue. I am sure the hon. Minister, in speeding up the work there, will bear in mind the very many accidents now occurring on that road because of the narrowness of the road. Right from the start, it was intended that it should be a double carriage way.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North) :** While supporting this Head, I should like to appeal to the Minister to tour all the Regions and see the conditions of roads himself. As it is said, seeing is believing. Very many roads in the Regions are bad. The tour of the Regions will enable him to see clearly why I want the Government to take over the responsibility of some Regional roads from the Regional Governments. This will enable the Regional Government, in turn, to take up maintenance of some N.A. roads. When this is done, the N.A. will be able to carry out further useful projects that will help the Government to project the good reputation of Nigeria.

In order to encourage the financial and economic stability of our country, our road system must measure up to expectations. The Federal Government should not condone the fact that Regional Governments are the branches having the Federal Government as the stem. As the branches cannot do without the stem, so it is with the Regional Governments.

Many Regional roads should be taken over by the Federal Government to enable the Regional Governments face other vital commitments. The Minister should tour all the roads in the Regions and survey the horror on our roads. I praise the Minister for his dynamism in facing all the ugly conditions of our roads.

I beg to support the Head.

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa) :** Just one point I want to make on Trunk 'A' roads. The Trunk 'A' road between Lagos and Abeokuta, and Lagos and Ibadan are death traps. Unfortunately, they are the roads linking the capital to the interior of the country.

We have heard that the sum of £2,23,000 has been earmarked for the maintenance of Trunk 'A' roads. I am praying the Minister to make use of at least half of this money to maintain these two roads.

The other day, I mentioned the trouble we had on the roads between Ibadan and Lagos. If the Minister cares to go on that road, even to-day, he will be able to count more than fifty cars that have skidded into the bush because the roads are bumpy, dangerous and winding. When I travel on that road, I am always very slow and careful. But you do not expect everybody to waste as much time as I will waste driving on that road. You will find that these big lorries plying the roads in the night, especially the truck pullers from Northern Nigeria, cause a lot of deaths. These big lorries do not dip their lights and they do not clear off the roads with the result that the people coming along in the night run into them.

Many lives have been lost these few weeks on this bad road. I am making a particular reference of the roads between Lagos and Ibadan, and Lagos and Abeokuta because so many of these deaths take place on the two roads.

If the roads are wide and smooth, I am quite sure the number of deaths will be reduced.

We find that a lot of money is being spent on the road between Otta and Idiroko. That is all right. But I do not see the sense in spending so many pounds widening that road when, within Nigeria herself, the roads are winding, bumpy and dangerous. If the road which is the gateway to Nigeria is wide and inside Nigeria herself the roads are unpliable, well, we just want to deceive ourselves. When the people come into this country and ply the road from the gateway to Otta, they will find that the whole thing is a mess. The roads within the country should be well constructed.

I would like this time to speak particularly on the two roads from Lagos to Abeokuta, and Lagos to Ibadan. Part of the money

[MR GBOLAGUNTE]  
being voted on this Head could be used to widen and smoothen these roads to save people's lives and properties. Within the last few months lives have been lost and properties damaged along those roads and I do hope the Minister will note this very small point.

**M. Usman Borkono** (Adamawa West) : It is desirable that the Federal Government should take over the maintenance of all roads left in the hands of the Regional Governments, so that the Regional Governments in turn can have enough money to assist their respective Native Authorities or County Councils in the construction and maintenance of those allotted to them.

Coming next to the question of the award of contracts I think the government should ensure that more Nigerians, and not expatriates, are awarded contracts. These days it is only the expatriate contractors who get the contracts; we are asking the Minister to see to it that indigenous contractors are encouraged in the award of contracts.

I am happy at the work being carried out on the shortening of the road from Bauchi to Yola, and I would only like to appeal to the Minister to make sure that the construction is completed in good time.

Before I take my seat I would like to add that work should be carried out on the Benue bridge so as to make it stronger.

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh** (Abaja and Ngwo) : Nobody who knew the condition of the roads between Onitsha and Enugu, and Enugu to Aliade in the past would fail to praise the Minister of Works and Surveys for the wonderful improvement he has made on these roads. The same thing is applicable to the roads from Abakaliki to Nyahe, and Oji River through Awgu to Okigwi. I would like the Minister to see to it that such other roads from Nyahe to Ikom and Enugu to Abakaliki are tackled on the same lines as those I have mentioned earlier.

The road between Asaba and Lagos needs widening; and I would not fail to make mention of the new road being constructed between Benin and Shagamu. The work is wonderful and we shall have to praise the Minister for the efficient way in which the contractors are doing the job;

I would like to refer specifically to the question of the award of contracts. In the President's Speech mention was made that the Ministry of Works and Surveys will give more consideration to Nigerian contractors when any award of contracts is to be made.

It has been noticed in the past that the expatriate contractors get a greater share of the contracts than the indigenous contractors. The result is that these local contractors who have in their employ expert engineers and other sets of workers fold up after two or three years because they have no business to do. Even the expatriates are not the builders themselves. What they do is that they employ very efficient engineers from abroad to work for them; they also employ the surveyors and the architects to do the work for them. Their Nigerian counterparts are capable of employing the services of experts from abroad to work for them, too.

Take a look at the list of approved federal contractors, and you will find that there are so many registered contractors who, up to now, have not got contracts to work upon. We are very grateful that the government has decided, as a matter of policy, to encourage our local men by awarding more contracts to them. We are appealing to the Minister to see his way clear to ensure that Nigerian contractors are given the opportunity to show the world that they themselves can execute any amount of work which the European contractors can do.

The question of awarding contracts to the foreign firms has something to do with our foreign exchange and balance of payments, in that when you have a contract of about ten million pounds awarded to an expatriate contractor the bulk of the profits made will be sent overseas; whereas if a local firm had been offered a contract of that magnitude a large part of the money would remain inside the country. I am for this reason appealing to the Minister to ensure that contracts are awarded to indigenous contractors adequately.

My next point is on survey. I think that in 1957 this House passed a law making it possible for surveyors who have been in government service for upwards of fifteen years or more to be licensed, so that they can practise on their own after leaving the service. This may not be a fact, but we understand that there is



House of Representatives Debates

1997

[Appropriation (1964-65)

8 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

1998

a move to repeal that law which assures a man of a surveyor's licence. I appeal to the Minister to see to it that the effect of that law is not annulled in any way.

At the present there are very few practising surveyors, and the majority of those who are in this profession have hopes that after about fifteen years in the government they are likely to have the licence to practise surveying. But if the government abrogates this very fine arrangement it will then mean that these people will not have the prospect of working on their own eventually. Therefore you will find, in the main, that a Nigerian Director of Surveys in a Region may not be licensed if he retires.

Some youngmen who have qualified under the ordinance survey of Britain or who are graduates of whatever university are not licensed in Nigeria, and unless the government ensures this lee-way by which they can get licensed it will mean that, after about fifteen or twenty years service in the government, these men will retire without any hopes of practising on their own. And we seem to lose sight of the fact that these very young men are the people who are carrying out the survey work of the government to-day, but it now appears that when they themselves leave the service it will become impossible for them to practise privately.

We are asking the Minister not to countenance any representation from people who want to enrich themselves to the exclusion of others by not annulling the effect of this law.

The Minister in his speech referred to the Survey School at Oyo and the one in the Northern Region. I wonder if he realised that there was a school of this kind in the East about the years 1948-50. I would ask him to look into the possibility of setting up a Survey School in the East so that young men having the aptitude for survey could go there to train.

**Mr P. I. Ejukwa (Iköm):** I would like to express my sympathy to the Minister of Works and Surveys for the tremendous job he has got to do to bring the standard of our roads to a good order. The job should be a tremendous one because of the great length of the roads over which the Federal Government is responsible and for which it has set aside a comparatively small sum of money.

There is no doubt that the Minister of Works and Surveys is doing as much as he can for the maintenance of our roads and that the inadequacy of finance is our only handicap. I am therefore just praying the Federal Government to see that something is done, and very quickly too, for the development of many of our Trunk "A" roads, particularly those that lead to rural areas.

It is a great pity that when this morning the Minister of Works and Surveys mentioned some categories of our roads which must be given attention, now or in the near future, I did not hear anything about a very important road which connects Yahe, Ikom (and Mfum—a distance of about 68 miles. I am, however, very happy that the Member for Abaja and Ngwo (*Mr G. O. D. Eneh*) mentioned something about this road.

The road, as I have always said, is a very important one for it runs through a commercial area and all along the Federal Government does not appear to take any notice of it. This worries me very much and a lot of the people right inside the rural area through which the road runs feel that they are being seriously neglected in the distribution of amenities by the Federal Government. I am therefore humbly begging that the Minister of Works and Surveys should, as soon as possible, consider doing something about this road.

In answer to a question asked by me yesterday, I was given to understand that to maintain this road cost the Federal Government £9.4 thousand in 1960, ten thousand pounds in 1961, £16.4 thousand pounds in 1961-62, £17,848 in 1963-64. Scrutinising this properly, one would notice that the expenditure graph from 1960 to 1964 appears to be very steep. To reduce the steepness of this graph, I think the tarring of this road should be undertaken almost immediately so as to minimise the cost of maintenance of this road. If this is done and the cost of maintenance of this road is minimised much money will be available to develop other roads, which Members are already asking the Federal Government to develop.

The next point I wish to mention is that a good many of our Trunk A roads are narrowing down in span very badly. I have in mind the road that I have just mentioned—Yahe-Ikom-Mfum Road—which used to measure 22 feet in width and which has now reduced to

[MR EJKWA]

almost one third of its original breadth. This situation is really very risky to users of the road. Very often we see cases of motor accidents caused by the simple fact that both to the right and left of our roads there is no space through which lorries or cars could pass conveniently. Consequently, our drivers, many of whom are bad, who do not want to give way to other lorries or cars to pass, just run into people's cars or lorries thereby causing a lot of damages to the vehicles and also loss of lives.

May I appeal to the Federal Government that a very important road now under construction from Obudu through Ikom to Calabar and which is likely to be joined to the Northern Region should be regarded as a Trunk A road on the Eastern Regional border. The Federal Government should give this road very close attention as it is going to increase the commercial activities of this country. It should be taken over by the Federal Government on completion.

I beg to second.

**Mr M. A. Ajasin** (Owo South) : I just want to say that the Minister of Works and Surveys should be asked to speed up the work on the Lagos-Benin Road. The construction of this road started about ten years ago and about seven years ago the Minister of Works and Surveys, the same Minister who still holds the Ministry, promised that the road would be opened in August 1957 but the road till to-day is still under construction and has not been opened. After 1957 one of the bridges on the road was washed away by heavy rains and the reconstruction of that bridge is not yet completed.

As I have said this is about the tenth year that work started on that road and I think it is time that the work was completed and the road opened.

That road when completed will shorten the distance between Lagos and Benin City by about a hundred miles ; the road is really about 114 miles shorter than the road at present linking Lagos with Benin City. It is an appreciable thing that the Government has considered cutting down the expenses of travellers and shortening the time of the journey from Lagos to Benin City by the construction

of this new road and thereby helping the development of the economy of this country, but it is necessary that the work on this road should be speeded up.

I would like to ask the Minister of Works and Surveys to consider linking up the important towns on the old road to the new Lagos-Benin City Road. A place like Owo should be linked by a short-cut road with this new road and the same thing applies to Ondo. This will shorten the distance of going from Lagos to any of these places and also the distance from Lagos to a place like Lokoja passing through Owo will be greatly reduced.

Members of this House from the Middle Belt area in the Northern Region who travel down to Lagos by the old road will therefore be able to get here in a shorter time and through a better, less expensive way. The transportation of different foodstuffs and other commodities from areas linked by this road to Lagos will be made easier and less expensive. It is therefore important that the Minister of Works and Surveys should consider linking as many towns as possible with this new road.

There is something else which I would like to ask of the Minister of Works and Surveys. This is not a new subject but one which has been raised by many Members on the Floor of this House, and it is that our Trunk "B" roads should be taken over by the Federal Government. It should not be the Trunk "B" roads alone now but also what I would call the Trunk "C" roads—roads constructed by the different local authorities—and the Trunk "D" roads—roads constructed by the local communities particularly the farmers.

Some years ago the Regional Governments gave farmers loans to construct roads to their farms. The farmers who were really concerned with this type of grant are the cocoa farmers in the Western Region and the Minister of Finance told us in his Budget Speech something which has to do with these farm roads.

With your permission, Mr Chairman, I shall read from the Budget Speech of the Minister of Finance, page 5 paragraph 1, the part that deals with what I am now saying :—

*At the 1963 Annual Meetings of the International Financial Institutions, the New President of the World Bank declared in his*

House of Representatives Debates

2001

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

8 APRIL 1964

[Bill : Committee]

2002

*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.*

These Trunks "B", "C" and "D" roads are the farm-to-market roads. Now that money will be provided by the World Bank for the development of these farm-to-market roads there should be no excuse at all from the Minister of Works and Surveys that there is no money for the construction and maintenance of these roads.

Now that the Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech has told us that money would be provided by the World Bank for the construction and maintenance of these roads it should no longer be the responsibility of the Regional Governments to take care of these roads but that of the Federal Government. The Regional Governments will therefore have more money to finance other projects and by the construction of these farm-to-market roads our farmers will be able to bring their farm produce to our markets easier and less expensively. The destruction of foodstuffs on the farms will also cease.

During the last rainy season many roads were flooded as a result of overflowing of our rivers many farm products, especially cocoa and other commercial products, were greatly affected because these farmers found it difficult to get to their farms. If, as it has promised, the World Bank makes funds available for the construction and maintenance of farm roads, the Minister of Works and Surveys can help, in no small measure, to see that these difficulties are overcome.

I would like the Minister of Works and Survey to consider the question I asked on the Floor of this House a few years ago. I had said then that the dangerous Miliken hill in Eastern Nigeria should be surveyed. It is a question of cutting a road across the hill. The road there at present, followed the foot-path which was there a long time ago. It was this foot-path that was followed in constructing the present road there.

The central part of this hill can be cut through so that a wider passage will be available.

At present there is traffic congestion in this country and the problem it poses is increasing greatly. Therefore, the road that leads to Enugu which is one of the Regional capitals in this country, should be properly constructed.

I am, therefore appealing to the Minister of Works and Survey to consider the possibility of constructing a new road on the hill or putting a tunnel through it to the other side in order to make it possible for people to go through that place without thinking about their lives being in great danger.

I beg to support.

**Alhaji Umaru Maltumbi (Muri North) :**  
In supporting the expenditure under this Head, I would like to make some few remarks. Experience has shown that the Federal Government is only taking action to develop roads that have been already tarred, and neglecting those roads that are untarred.

Considering the good state of roads in other parts of this country, I am inclined to say that the roads from Yola to Jalingo is totally neglected. Adamawa Province is totally cut off from the other parts of this country during the rainy season. The road along Yola to Jalingo is narrow and the bridges on this road are weak and cannot support a five ton lorry, whilst passing through it.

I would like the Minister of Works and Survey to see to it that this road is widened and that permanent bridges and not temporary bridges, are constructed.

Whilst the other parts of this country are enjoying good roads, we in Adamawa province are enjoying what I may describe as diversion roads. Drivers cannot drive more than ten miles on that road before seeing a diversion.

Now, all our bridges have been closed down because of the rains. Sometimes, because of this diversion, passengers and loads had to come down before a lorry could pass through. This practice is also applicable where bridges are bad.

The state of our roads has made it impossible for firms to establish in Adamawa Province. Whenever we approach commercial firms to open up branches in our province, they reply

[ALHAJI MALTUMBI]  
us by saying that our roads are bad. Thus, we are completely cut off from modern developments.

I am, therefore appealing to the Minister of Works and Survey to see to it that Adamawa Province gets its own share of amenities from the Federal Government. He should tar this road. Some people complain that their roads are badly tarred or are half tarred whereas our own road in Adamawa Province is completely untarred. Because of the bad condition of our Trunk 'A' Road, transporters in this area, prefer the use of the local authority maintained roads to the use of the Federal Government maintained Trunk 'A' Road.

Last year, the Minister of Works and Survey made a statement on the Floor of this House to the effect that Mayubalwa bridge would soon be completed, but to our greatest surprise this bridge has not even been started. I am also surprised to hear the Minister of Works and Survey saying that the Dong river bridge will soon be completed, whereas this bridge is just starting. There are not more than six labourers employed by the contractors working there now.

We would like the Minister to show us exactly the true picture of things whenever he is making a statement on the Floor of this House. It is not good for the Minister to mislead this honourable House.

**Mr D. C. Ahamefula** (Okigwi South West) : I think the Member for Muri North (*Alhaji Maltumbi*) is quarelling.

**Alhaji Maltumbi** : I am not quarelling, I am only very serious in what I am saying, because the Ministry of Works and Survey is of primary importance and it is the background of all developments.

Without our roads being in proper condition, we cannot hope to develop Adamawa province.

The Minister should see to it that something is done for the people in Adamawa province.

I beg to support.

**Mr P. O. Eleke** (Okigwi South East) : I have two remarks to make under this Head. We know that the Minister of Works and Survey is one of the able Ministers we have in this Republic. I usually praise him, but this

year, I do not know whether to praise him or not because I have on several occasions called his attention to the bridges along Umuahia, Okigwi, Agwu-Enugu Trunk 'A' Road.

This road was tarred since four years ago, and the bridges there are very dangerous. Apart from these bad bridges, it should be noted that it is one of the busiest Trunk 'A' Roads in Eastern Nigeria. I do not know the reason why these bridges have not been reconstructed up to this time. A lot of lives have been lost on this road because of accidents resulting from bad bridges.

I am, therefore, appealing to the Minister to give this matter his immediate consideration. This road leads to the capital of Eastern Nigeria and the traffic there is very heavy.

The second point that I would like to raise is in the form of a question. May we know from the Minister, why contracts of such major projects like the Niger Dam and Niger Bridge are always given to expatriate firms? We have indigenous contractors who have the experience and the money and yet every year we continue to award contracts to expatriate firms. We should begin now to award such contracts to our own people.

I beg to support.

**Mr B. O. Ikeh** (Izi South) : In supporting this Head of the Estimates, I would like to say that sometime ago we used to have shortage of water in Lagos. But the Ministry of Works and Surveys has done very well in installing very big reservoir and large pipes for the supply of water. Thus, there is no more shortage of water as was the case a few years ago.

As regards roads, I would like to draw the Minister's attention to the very important roads we have been referring to all along. One of these roads is the international road between Nigeria and Equatorial Africa. That is the road running from Enugu through Abakaliki to the Cameroun Republic. We are grateful to the Minister for placing this road in the programme for reconstruction.

There is one thing I would like the Minister to reconsider, and that is the first phase of the reconstruction of this road, which is being delayed because the contractors who are now working there appear to be wasting time.

*House of Representatives Debates*

2005

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

8 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

2006

We all know that the rainy season is fast approaching and it may well be that the adjustments which have just been made are not strong enough to carry the traffic between Enugu and Abakaliki.

I therefore suggest that it is necessary that the contractors be advised to quicken the pace of their work so that before it is too late the bridges would be ready for use.

I repeat that it is very kind of the Ministry to have included this road in its reconstruction programme. We would like that road to be as good as the road from Enugu to Onitsha.

As regards the Niger bridge we are all very grateful to the Minister. The work is progressing rapidly and we are looking forward to the time when Members will come straight from Onitsha, across the bridge over to Lagos without having to stop at any point to be ferried across.

Work on the Benin-Shagamu road is progressing very rapidly too. But the bridges are still very narrow. We should like those bridges to be very firm and to be able to carry the heavy traffic. At the moment, as I said, the bridges are too narrow for such an important road, and they only serve as what I may call death-traps. The road in itself is very good, and is a great credit to this Federal Government.

Some time ago, I understand that the work which the Ministry of Works gave to contractors at Enugu aerodrome has not been going on very well and there is a great delay in improving that aerodrome. It will be good if the Ministry considers having that work done directly or getting somebody else to take it over.

The same thing can be said about the improvement of the aerodrome at Benin. This is becoming very important as Benin is now the capital of a new region. The expansion and reconstruction of the Benin aerodrome now becomes imperative and the Ministry of Works should take into serious consideration the improvement of this aerodrome.

We have been talking about traffic congestion in Lagos. It is very important for the Federal Government to think very seriously about the ways and means of lessening the congestion.

I remember that as far back as 1955 there has been a plan to construct a second bridge to link Lagos Island with the mainland. But up

till now nothing appears to have been done. We are very anxious to see a second bridge linking Lagos Island with mainland.

Sometime ago there was the great danger of Carter Bridge collapsing. But the Ministry did very well to reinforce and strengthen the bridge. However, nobody knows what will happen tomorrow. Nobody knew that the Ikorodu Road or the road from Lagos to Abeokuta and Ibadan would be over-flooded at the time it did. These things are natural phenomena and we cannot control them. Consequently, we must always be on the alert.

Therefore, it is very important for the Ministry of Works and Surveys to start a second bridge linking Lagos Island with the mainland. We all say that the Ministry has done its best to improve road conditions throughout the Republic, but much attention should be given to the major roads particularly those connecting the regions.

It is a pity one that cannot start from here and reach Kano or Kaduna within a very short time. It is also very shameful that one cannot leave Lagos and reach say Enugu within a very short time.

We need in this country the type of trunk roads we see in other important countries when we go abroad. I very much desire to draw the attention of the Minister of Works and Surveys to this very important aspect of the duties of his Ministry.

I beg to support.

**Mr O. J. Eminue (Eket East)** : I have to call the attention of the Minister to the position of the Aba-Oron Trunk 'A' Road. This is the only road that links the old Calabar province with the rest of Nigeria. At mile 24 the winding and dangerous corners, down that hill to the bridge, that is to Ikot Ekpene, is very much unwarranted, and I strongly appeal to the Minister to cause the road there to be straightened so as to avoid constant accidents on that bridge.

I have to congratulate the Minister for giving a firm promise to include the reconstruction of Uya Oron bridge on the Aba-Oron road in his current year's reconstruction programme. I hope that the Minister will cause work to be started on that bridge very soon.

[MR EMINUE]

The rewidening of the Aba-Oron Road which was started since 1961 only stopped at mile 57 to Oron, leaving uncompleted a distance of 17 miles. I am sure that the Minister will cause that work of rewidening from mile 57 to Oron to be completed within the current year.

On several occasions we have made a demand on the Floor of this House for the construction of a bridge across Atimbo river in Calabar Division. This is the main route that links Calabar township with Akpaboyo and the rest of Calabar division. It is the only road which carries the goods produced from Akpaboyo to Calabar township. So I am appealing to the Minister to see that Atimbo river is included in the current year's programme for bridge construction.

I beg to support.

**Mr V. L. Lajide** (Ogbomosho North): In supporting the Expenditure on this Head, I join others in congratulating the Minister of Works for the splendid work he has carried out during his term of office.

From time, the Ministry of Works and Surveys has been the object of severe criticism because the Ministry deals with roads which is a subject of great importance to the people. Since his Ministry deals with road, the Minister therefore deals directly with the people.

Last year, there was a flood which almost swept away all the federal roads, but the Minister and his able lieutenants quickly justified the hopes of the people by working night and day on these roads, in order to provide the people with free access to the Regions.

The Minister has got one noticeable characteristic. He is as we all know, one of our ablest Ministers. He does not regard criticisms as an attack from the public but as a means of improving his Ministry and the work done by his officials. This is made evident by the praises showered on him by all sides of the House.

I would like to make some comments on the question of roads. At present, it looks as though Nigeria has not got sufficient engineers, especially indigenous engineers, to work on our roads. I would, therefore, advise our Minister to see to it that more scholarships

are given to our youngmen to go overseas and study road construction, which is very important in the development of this country. We do appreciate what the Minister is doing to encourage indigenous contractors but he should do more in this respect.

I support the Members who have appealed to the Minister to support our local contractors financially and in equipments because these contractors have to face the keen competition of foreign firms. I would also advise the Minister to have some discussions with the Minister of Education so that our local contractors could be awarded scholarships which will enable their employees to study and, in return, improve their various businesses.

I want to point out, Mr Chairman, that the length of roads maintained in the West by the Federal Government is very small as compared with the length of roads maintained in the North and the East. I will then advise the Minister to take more roads in the West for maintenance. There should be equal distribution.

Although our roads are improving greatly, the bridges are very narrow. I hope the Minister will do something about the improvement of our bridges.

As I said earlier, I join with others in congratulating the Minister of Works and Surveys for the excellent work he has done.

**Alhaji Zubairu Omar** (Nassarawa): In rising to speak on this Head, I must say that a lot has been said about the roads in this country.

When the Minister of Works was telling us about the roads in this country, I listened attentively but did not hear him say anything about the roads linking the East and the North—the Aliade-Makurdi-Jos Road. We are tired of telling the Minister about the importance of that road.

The Federal Government has been spending a lot of money in paying contractors for the supply of laterite to be spread on that road, but still yet, there has been no improvement.

I hope that the Minister will see to it that this road is widened and all the timber bridges converted to concrete bridges. I appeal to the Minister to see that more attention is paid to that road.

I beg to support.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys** (Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): I want to say that I very much appreciate the praises showered on us by hon. Members. I know my officials will certainly be encouraged and will be even more prepared to render better work.

As an hon. Member mentioned, my Ministry when it was a department used to be termed "Public Waste Department" instead of Public Works Department. The change from the former name to the present one is something for which my officials should rightly feel proud of.

I would like briefly to reply to a number of points raised by hon. Members. I do not intend to reply to every point. So if some hon. Members find that I have not mentioned the points which they have raised, it does not mean that I have not noted them. Everything said here is being recorded in the Official Report of Parliament and I also have two of my officials making very careful notes of what hon. Members have said.

I would like to start with what the Member for Oyo South (*Mr S. O. Kolade*) said this morning. He talked about awarding scholarships to Nigerians to go and study foundation engineering overseas. There is no special course for this branch of engineering. All engineers are trained in this field and the firm the hon. Member was talking about which is at present engaged on foundation works in the Victoria Island and elsewhere, are contractors. There is no reason why Nigerian engineers cannot get together to form such a firm.

My good Friend, the Member for Ikeja (*Mr A. O. Ogunsanya*) made mention of the work we are doing on the Ikorodu road and on the Lagos approach roads, that is the Western Avenue and the Agege Motor road.

I am pleased to inform him that negotiations for the award of contracts for the construction of the Western Avenue and re-construction of the Agege Motor Road, are now far advanced and as soon as my Colleague and Friend the Minister of Finance can arrange the finance, we shall commence work.

There is one point which has been raised on a number of occasions and that is the award of contracts to indigenous contractors. My

Ministry is doing all that is possible to encourage Nigerian contractors and to give them as much work as possible.

When I spoke this morning, I said that we have already awarded a number of civil engineering contracts to Nigerian contractors. As a matter of fact, the amount of work now being handled by Nigerian contractors in this respect, is over £400,000.

In the building project, I know we have awarded a contract of well over £300,000 to an indigenous contractor in the Eastern Region.

I want to say this. All the Regional Governments have well over 1,500 contractors. It is simply impossible for us to find work for every one of them. The Federal Government is not the only employer of labour nor is it the only awarder of contracts. The Regional Governments are there, the firms and the private individuals are also there.

When we register somebody as a contractor we more or less give him a certificate or testimonial to help him to go and look for work. Now we have started the practice of including in the letter of information to somebody who is being registered a circular calling his attention to the fact that there is no guarantee for him to get work from the Federal Government. However, we shall continue to do what we can.

Again, in connection with contracts, the Member for Okigwi South East (*Mr Eleke*) spoke of the award of major contracts to expatriate contractors. He cited as an example the Niger Bridge and the Kainji Dam. The Niger Bridge especially is a contract which, at the moment, no Nigerian contractor can handle. This is not only because of the complexity of the work—Nigerian civil engineers can certainly handle the work—but this contract is a deferred contract. This means a contract which the contractor finances and he has to be paid over a number of years after the completion of the work. It is a contract worth very nearly five million pounds. No Nigerian contractor can find this money.

I need not go into the question about Kainji Dam. I thought everybody knew how the contract of Kainji Dam was awarded. This Dam is being built with money from the World Bank and from loan given to Nigeria by a number of governments. The tender for

[ALHAJI INUWA WADA]

this work was advertised on an international basis and there was no reason why any Nigerian contractor who thought he could do it would not tender. But no Nigerian contractor tendered for it.

My very good Friend, the Member for Izi South (*Mr Ikeh*) spoke of his pet road—the Enugu-Abakaliki-Ikom road. I must apologise to the hon. Member and his colleagues that unfortunately during this present Plan period we simply have not got the money to reconstruct the whole length of this road. However, we are reconstructing the bridges and also rehabilitating part of the road. We shall nevertheless continue to maintain it yearly with our maintenance money or rehabilitate it with our rehabilitation money.

The Member also spoke of the Enugu Airport runway. I would not like to mention this, but it has been a matter of great interest and concern to some people even outside this Parliament. But the Member, unfortunately, is not aware of the position. The runway was completed on the 10th of March and it is now in full operation. I am glad to say that this contract also was done by a Nigerian contractor.

The Member for Nassarawa (*Alhaji Zubairu Omar*) spoke of the trunk road known as 'A3' and that part of it which stretches from Makurdi, Aliade and Jos. It is true there is not enough money to reconstruct and surface the whole length of the road, but if the Member checks properly in the Estimates, there is provision of over one million pounds for the reconstruction of bridges and rehabilitating part of the road. All the wooden bridges that the Member is complaining of will be replaced and reconstructed with modern concrete bridges; particularly the bad place on the escarpment in the Wamba area is going to be avoided.

The Member for Eket East (*Mr Eminue*) spoke of another pet of his, the Uya-Oron bridge. Here, I want to assure him that this is in the programme and the bridge is going to be reconstructed.

The Member for Muri North (*Alhaji Umaru Maltumbi*) spoke, rather heatedly, on the Yola-Jalingo-Takum road. Here too I will apologise to the hon. Member, and not only to him but to all Members coming from Adamawa Province. It is true we should have done much more for Adamawa Province, but

I should like to tell him that there is one important road leading to Adamawa Province which we are going to reconstruct. This is the road leading from Bauchi through Gombe to Yola. The other roads in Adamawa Province we shall try to maintain, and as soon as Federal Government finds itself in a better financial position, I am sure arrangements will be made to make these roads strong and to put them in first-class position.

Once more, I want to thank Members for the praise they have showered on the officials of my Ministry.

£6,845,500 for Head 58—Ministry of Works and Surveys—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 59—AUDIT

Question proposed, That £109,440 for Head 59—Audit—stand part of the Schedule.

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East): I just want to say one or two things about the Federal Audit. This arm of the Government is supposed to be very well protected and so, perhaps, some of the enthusiastic ones may use the opportunity to stain some people whom they want to stain.

I notice that in all the Ministries there is provision for internal audit. There are also a set of accountants in all the Ministries. I would have thought that in the interest of integration the internal audits in the Ministries should be abolished so that the Audit Department will be solely in charge of audit. This is because it is sometimes very difficult for any auditor to work in a place where some other set of auditors have already used their green pencils to mark on the account books.

I made this point last year and I thought that it would be taken seriously by those concerned.

Perhaps, the condition under which the Auditors work in the Federal territory, may not be observed, but in other places where Federal Auditors are required to audit the accounts of Ministries that are outside Lagos, these Auditors have to travel, in some cases, at great risk to their profession. In most cases, they travel without sufficient kit. The rule about car advance and some other rules make it impossible for some of them to have their own vehicles, and when they travel they are



House of Representatives Debates

2013

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

8 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

2014

not provided with the means of staying independently in the place. Sometimes, they are compelled to seek charity elsewhere and in the process of doing this, all sorts of things happen.

There is not much that I would like to say on this other than that since Audit is a department which is supposed to be one of those to be paid for, or at least the Director is paid from the Consolidated Fund Charges, the whole Audit should have gone into that Head.

I beg to support.

£109,440 for Head 59—Audit—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 60.—FEDERAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Question proposed, That £29,630 for Head 60—Federal Electoral Commission—stand part of the Schedule.

**Mr J. S. Tarka** (Jemgba) : The other day a Member from this side of the House spoke about elections in this country. He stressed, in particular, matters concerning the last federal elections, especially on the issue of the impartiality of that particular election. Then as he said, we had an outsider as our referee.

I do not want to create the impression that we in this country after independence are not capable of conducting our own affairs without outside interference. I am sure that members of the Federal Government, in spite of everything, have shown, through some of their past activities, that we are capable of shouldering the responsibilities of independence, especially through the difficult times that we have seen in recent years.

A lot of praises have been showered on the Prime Minister; some of them are very justified, and in certain cases they are intended to flatter him. I wish to say that the Prime Minister, despite certain shortcomings within his own party circles, has shown that he is capable of carrying the affairs of this country under all difficult circumstances. We have given him too many praises. I often wonder if he will have the strength to carry these praises on his head. I hope that he will continue to live up to expectation and will continue to shoulder the difficult and thorny issues that arise in this country from time to time.

The Prime Minister was in the past faced with various challenges of national and international issues. I have the question of the issue of South Africa in mind. This particular issue was handled very well by the Prime Minister and he won the praise of many international figures who watched with keen interest his performances at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conferences. It is in this view that I wish to say that when we come back to this House, I do hope that we shall have another Prime Minister who will equally emulate the Prime Minister, Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa. I hope—

**The Chairman** : Order. This is not Electoral Commission.

**Mr Tarka** : I beg your pardon. The issue of elections in this country has been very paramount in the minds of all of us. If we had election in Western Nigeria immediately after the crisis, the Region would not have been faced with difficult times that it is now facing. It is in this regard that I wish to call upon the Prime Minister to shoulder this particular burden with the greatest care. It was this House that caused a state of emergency to be declared in Western Nigeria, and it is the Federal Government that should have the moral courage of advising whoever are the friends of the Prime Minister in Western Nigeria to order an immediate election—

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I must ask my hon. Friend to withdraw that, because all the people of Nigeria are the friends of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has no special friends in the Western Region. Mr Tarka is No. 1 friend of the Prime Minister.

**The Chairman** : Actually, this is not Electoral Commission either. I would like the Member for Jemgba (*Mr Tarka*) to abandon this line of argument.

**Mr Tarka** : The issue of the federal elections will show the wisdom of the Prime Minister and it will show also, as I have said before, whether we are capable of carrying on without outside interference.

I would like to advise the Prime Minister that party loyalty and friendship should not be a premium placed above national interest.

[MR TARKA]

Nigeria is a democracy. Even the fact that we have a representative Parliament where, in spite of disagreements, we managed to fashion out a modern nation, is a great example to the rest of Africa.

*(The Prime Minister entered the Chamber)*

I hear some Members say that I cannot talk now. I can talk before anybody. It is by holding a free and fair Federal Election under a completely peaceful atmosphere, that we can assure the world at large and Africa in particular that we continue to cherish the ideals of parliamentary democracy. It is with this in mind that I wish to make the following suggestions in all sincerity.

The first one is that the Electoral Regulations should apply commonly and evenly throughout the Federal Republic. We from the Northern Region of Nigeria will not tolerate any abuse of our intelligence. Who is saying that Northern Nigeria cannot vote without the guidance of District Heads who parade around polling stations? The Electoral Commission should start right now to construct pre-fabricated polling booths. The habit in the past was that in certain areas of this Federation, no polling booths were constructed: elections were held in palaces, in offices, in local councils and in police stations where the ordinary man is usually frightened to vote freely.

If we are going to have—

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East): It does not matter whether I am a District Head or a Village Head, the last elections in the Northern Region never took place in the palaces as claimed by the Member for Jemgba (*Mr Tarka*).

**Mr Tarka**: I wish, therefore, that we should avoid telling this House that it has been too late to construct permanent polling stations and that it has been too late to construct proper ballot boxes for this vital election.

One other point is that I am completely disappointed by the announcement of one of the Ministers in this House that the Electoral List will not be ready until some time in October or November. When are we going to have this Electoral List made available to us? It is necessary that we should have it in time so that we can study it carefully and make claims and objections. If the Electoral Register is made available in time, then we will be able to put in our claims and objections in time for

the Federal Elections which are bound to come before the life of the present House expires.

I would also like to suggest that there should be an inter-Regional exchange of Returning Officers as was the case with the Census Officers during the most recent census. I wish to suggest very seriously that if we want a very free and fair election, Electoral Officers should be exchanged on the regional basis, that is to say, we should have a group of Electoral Officers from the East, West, Mid-West and North, mixed together to conduct the elections in all the Regions of the Federation. This may seem expensive, but if we are going to keep our democracy intact, we must pay the cost of democracy.

Another point is that there have been several complaints from all sides of this House, especially from Members who come from the various Opposition parties from the various Regions, on the issue of a free and fair election. The complaints are that the elections cannot be conducted freely when, in certain parts of the country, one cannot obtain permits to hold public meetings simply because one belongs to the Opposition party.

I would like the Prime Minister, in conjunction with the Electoral Commission, to consider the possibility of doing exactly what was done in the 1959 Federal elections. What was done was that operational control was handed over to the Nigeria Police. I, therefore, suggest that during the forthcoming elections, operational control should be handed over to the Nigeria Police. This would ensure that everybody gets a free share of his permits to hold public meetings without hindrance.

The present tendency is that in certain areas—

**The Chairman**: This does not come within the sphere of the Electoral Commission.

**Mr Tarka**: I wish to say that we want the continued existence of stability in this country. Since we profess and practise democracy, we must have a free and fair election, and we must have a means of getting this without any inter-party strife.

I wish to say, at this juncture, that the Prime Minister, in his usual good way, can help to bring about a free, fair and peaceful conduct of the next Federal elections by receiving suggestions from various political parties. I also

hope that he will take it upon himself to call an All-party Conference to discuss the conduct of the forthcoming Federal elections.

I beg to support.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South) : I just wish to make some comments on the Federal Electoral Commission.

I notice that the Electoral Commission is interested in increasing the amount of election deposit from £25 to £100. This is very unfair to many Nigerians.

**The Chairman** : What the hon. Gentleman has just raised concerns Electoral Law which is under Judiciary and not Electoral Commission.

**Mr Ememe** : I had then better go straight to my points.

I wish to say that this Electoral Commission has lost the confidence of this House. The Electoral Commission has neglected all the suggestions given by the Members of this Parliament as far as the conduct of the census is concerned. The result of course—

**The Chairman** : Really, I cannot allow any discussion on the census. It does not come within the sphere of this Estimate and should be avoided.

**Mr Ememe** : What I mean to say is that this Electoral Commission has lost the confidence of this House, and, indeed, a new Commission should be appointed. Attention should be focused on the question of who should be the Chairman of this new Commission.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : On a point of order, I do not want the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) to mislead the House by saying that the Electoral Commission has lost the confidence of the House. A new Commission has been appointed in a way, but the out-going one did not lose the confidence of all of us here. Possibly the Commission has lost the confidence of Members in the Government Bench.

We still have confidence in the Electoral Commission, and when the new one takes its place, we shall give that new Commission the same confidence that we have given the out-going one.

**Mr Ememe** : The remarks of the hon. Gentleman do not appear to be necessary.

What I mean is that this Electoral Commission has lost the confidence of the House. I am saying it with emphasis. When we consider that this year there may be no elections because of certain crises that may arise, we cannot but conclude that this Commission has actually lost the confidence of this House.

**Mr S. O. Kolade** (Oyo South) : On a point of order—

**Mr Ememe** : I do not yield.

**The Chairman** : I very much dislike the way when sometimes order is called and people follow up with interruptions and unseemly remarks. This is a very bad practice which should not be continued in this House.

**Mr S. O. Kolade** (Oyo South) : I only want to say that the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) is misleading this House. There is no crisis at all in this country.

**Mr Ememe** : The conduct of the forthcoming Federal elections depends on many factors. There is no need trying to evade issues. We are confronted with a major problem. Are we going to hold the Federal elections this year or not? I am telling this House that there is no probability of our holding the Federal elections this year. If any one does it, he will be surprised about the consequences because there is no need holding elections based on fictitious census figures.

Although I am not interested in discussing the census, but the Federal elections are based on that. We cannot hold the federal elections on fictitious census figures.

**M. Ali Gwarzo** (Gwarzo West) : The hon. Member is completely irrelevant. He is talking about the census instead of the Electoral Commission.

**The Chairman** : Order. I think hon. Members will appreciate that it is more convenient for this House and better for our progress if Members avoid this census issue which does not come in any of the items under this Head.

**Mr Ememe** : About the conduct of the election itself, during the last Federal elections it was observed in many parts of the country that the elections were not fairly conducted in a way in that according to the Member for Jemgba (*Mr Tarka*) certain parts of the country had

[MR EMEME]

not even polling stations properly erected. Some polling stations were even erected in the homes of the members of some local authorities and in local police stations.

This type of thing does not promote unity. We cannot have one standard in the South and another standard in the North. There must be one definite standard for the whole country and all the irregularities must be eliminated once and for all. We should depend on the Nigeria Police. The Nigeria Police has been tested and proven to be efficient in the task of conducting the Federal elections and protecting the politicians.

There is no reason whatsoever why there should be local or back-door policemen who misuse their privileges during the Federal elections. There is definitely no reason whatsoever for District Heads to parade the polling booths. In fact, the last Federal election was the most funny in the sense that some District Heads went to the polling stations and asked the voters, "Which party are you voting for?" They even went to the extent of telling the people, "Those who are for so and so party, fall in this line, and those who are for the other party fall in that line".

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu** (Owerri South East) : On a point of order, I think it is not fair for the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) to refer to District Heads who are not in this House to reply.

**Mr Ememe** : It appears that the hon. Member does not seem to understand the workings of this country. There are many District Heads in this House.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East) : On a point of order, it appears to me that this is a case of thieves shouting "Stop thieves." Local authorities may be referred to in some of the Regions as District Heads and in other Regions they may be called by any other names. It is all the same and I refuse to listen to any pleading by or any statement from anybody who says that District Heads go to polling stations and ask the voters, "Which party are you voting for?"

**Mr Ememe** : Even though the Member for Gwarzo East (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*) who has just spoken is a District Head, I can understand his feelings about this. I do not

really mind his feelings and I think we want the unity of the country. It is for this reason that I have to come out here to criticise what is wrong with us, with the hope that it will be corrected against the future.

There is no reason why District Heads should go to polling stations and ask the voters, "Which party are you voting for?" What is the reason for that. If the people do not vote for the party to which the District Heads belong, they are victimised. This is not fair at all to this country. We want free and fair elections.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : On a point of order, I wish to remind the hon. Member that the District Heads do not go to the polling stations to ask the voters which party they are voting for. They walk round the polling booths and watch the legs of the voters to know into which box they are dropping their cards.

**Mr Ememe** : What is important also is how these polling booths are constructed.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of order, I think the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) is himself a District Head or a Clan Head and he is telling this House what he has been doing.

**Chief Abii** : I am speaking from experience. That is what they do.

**Mr Ememe** : I said that what is important also is how the polling booths are constructed. It is often seen that in some polling booths there are small holes made through which the District Heads can easily peep and see who is voting for which party.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power** (Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika) : Although we know the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) very well, the allegation he is making is very serious. He is also misleading the House. There is no part of this country where this kind of thing is happening. He is misleading the House and I hope he will not continue doing this.

**Mr Ememe** : What I am saying is that all those who are in the Government service, and all those who are politicians should hands off the federal elections. That is what we are

saying in a sense. No District Head should determine which party people should vote for ; no Chief, no Emir and no Oba should determine which party people should vote for. We want free and fair elections in this country so that we will know who wins an election into the Federal Parliament. There are very many Members in this House who should not have come here if there were free and fair elections. We cannot continue to tolerate this type of thing.

**M. Muhammed Ningi** (Bauchi North West) : On a point of order, the hon. Member should not continue saying all these things because if the Mid-West election was conducted in a free and fair atmosphere I am sure the N.C.N.C. would not have had the majority it had. I think the hon. Member is playing on the intelligence of the Members of this House.

**Chief S. O. Fajinmi** (Iwo West) : On a point of order, the organising secretaries of a certain political party in the Eastern Region are the polling agents in Eastern Nigeria. Also, the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) does not know anything about the District Heads, that is why he was saying what he said about them.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : On a point of information, we really do not know in what language the Member for Ede-Ejigbo (*Chief Ogunleye*) was speaking.

**Mr Ememe** : The comment I am making does not refer to any particular part of the country. It is a general statement. I said that the Emirs, District Heads, Chiefs, Obas, Premiers, and all Councilors should take their hands off Federal elections. Let there be a free election so that those who come into this House may be the accredited representatives of the people. That is what I am saying.

Another important point is that after the election itself, some people like to utilise their privilege to cross carpets and do all kinds of things, thereby deceiving the very electorates who voted for them. This is very unfair. They go and sell themselves, collect the money and cross carpets. And when I am saying this, I have many concrete evidences.

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh** (Abaja and Ngwo) : On a point of information, when we came here in 1959, I saw many people on the side of the N.C.N.C. but after some time, they went over

to the other side. Eventually, they are going to another side. I do not know why the Speaker does not make a law restricting people from crossing from one place to another.

I would ask that we have a standard so that anybody who is a Member of Parliament should be recognised as a Member of Parliament and not—

**The Chairman** : Order ! This is democracy in this country and there must be freedom.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : On a point of order, I believe that when the fundamental human rights were entrenched in our Constitution, they were not entrenched so that the people of this country would have the freedom to do evils or have the freedom to cross from one place to another place.

**The Chairman** : There are proper forums for the interpretation of the Constitution but I am sure that freedom of movement also involves freedom of clear conscience.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : On a point of order, to move freely in the House is not against the Constitution or the fundamental human rights but when people begin to cross the borders from the North to the East, then the hon. Members on that side begin to yell and hoot. Some people are just crossing the borders as they like. When we cross here, nobody says anything. Some people are already crossing the Northern border.

**The Chairman** : If you might look at the Head we are debating, I think it deals with the Electoral Commission and when once you have been elected and you are in Parliament, it does not concern the Electoral Commission.

So, if Members have any more comment on what happens inside the House, perhaps, they might look at the Estimates and choose a more appropriate Head on the Estimates.

**Mr Ememe** : I was talking about the Electoral Commission and the lack of confidence this House has in the Electoral Commission. I was trying to point out some of the evils which have been generated as a result of the inefficiency of the Electoral Commission, and in saying that, I was giving an example of those who have betrayed the confidence of the voters. After the voters had wasted their time

[MR EMEME]

and energy to vote for them, they came here and sold themselves and became marketable commodities. This is unfair.

**The Chairman :** Order! Those who betray the confidence placed in them after they have been elected certainly are outside the scope of the competence of the Electoral Commission.

**Mr Ememe :** Thank you, Mr Chairman. In conclusion, let it be registered that we are not happy with the type of Federal Electoral Commission we have. It should be definitely disbanded because it has not lived up to expectation and a new Federal Electoral Commission should be appointed. Before it is appointed, all shades of political opinion should be taken into account so that one party may not use that opportunity to put its interest over that of the nation.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**M. Albatan Yerima Balla** (Adamawa North West) : This is a very important Head, Mr Chairman. Nigeria is now an independent country. When we had the Federal election in 1959, it was supervised by the British who were then our masters but the next general elections will be completely in the hands of Nigerians. But whether it is going to be in the hands of Nigerians from the East, North, West or Mid-West, the election must be completely out of the hands of the politicians.

We are grown enough politically to decide our own destiny. Election is the destiny of a nation. Whether the election will take place this year, next year or in the next five years, what we want is that the law that is existing in the West, the North, the East and in the Mid-West, must be uniform.

The staff of the Electoral Commission must be entirely controlled by the Federal Government. We do not want them to be under the control of the Regional Governments. No Regional Government should interfere in the Federal election, since the Federal Government has no authority to interfere in the Regional elections.

The staff must be recruited by the Prime Minister. There should be no delegation of power to any Regional Government, or to a Native Authority. The destiny of the country is in the hands of the Prime Minister since

he is responsible to all his subjects. He should see to it that no Regional Government or Native Authority interferes in the Federal election.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : Members of this House have made some contributions towards Head 60—Federal Electoral Commission. Now, what we feel is that Members of the Electoral Commission are biased. What happened during the Mid-West Elections, the delimitation of the Mid-West, should serve as a lesson and those people should not be taken into confidence any longer. If they are reappointed, the Prime Minister should see to it that, in order to maintain the peace and tranquillity of Nigeria, they are removed because some of them are arch-tribalists.

They organise tribalism and in this respect, as long as they place themselves as tribal gods, they do not enjoy the confidence of the nation. They should not be placed in such important posts again.

Furthermore, I associate myself with the Members who have stated that the control of the Electoral Commission should not be in the hands of politicians and that the Constitution of Nigeria should be amended in order to transfer the Electoral Commission, the Department of Audit and some other important Departments to the President who is not a politician.

This will save the nation from appointing some politicians who also will always try to toe the line of whoever has appointed them.

The Chairman of this Electoral Commission in Nigeria should be removed forthwith because he is a member of seven Boards and as a result, has no time to look into the affairs of the Electoral Commission properly. This work is an important task.

We have always said on the Floor of this House that elections in Nigeria at times are not free and fair in certain Regions of the country. If we really want to maintain the legacy handed over to us by the British imperialists in those days who made arrangements and introduced some clauses in our Electoral Regulations in order to cause confusion in this country, we might land ourselves into trouble because we have in the past pursued unrealistic, chronic and unprogressive policies.

Now, we are appealing to the Government to see to it that those unprogressive measures are dropped and that the nation continues to have full confidence in the Prime Minister. At present we have that confidence in him. All Members of this House always praise him ; but the fact remains that there are certain things that should be corrected in Nigeria.

For instance, the Electoral Commission will soon go into the work of preparing our next electoral list according to the information given to us here on the Floor of this House the other day. (*Several hon. Members : No !*). I will tell the hon. Members saying no that it was said on the Floor of this House and I am saying it with all emphasis that the nation has not accepted the last census figures.

**The Chairman :** Order ! We are debating the Electoral Commission and the hon. Gentleman should please confine his debate to it.

**Mr Okoronkwo :** Mr Chairman, I am of the opinion that they should not make any attempt to use those figures.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

£29,630 for Head 60—*Federal Electoral Commission—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

#### HEAD 61—JUDICIAL.

£225,730 for Head 61—*Judicial—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

#### HEAD 62—PARLIAMENT.

*Question proposed, That £750,900 for Head 62—Parliament—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa) :** Mr Chairman, I will start my debate on Parliament by praising the Speaker. The Speaker of this House has tried to be fair and I think I should mention that in just one sentence.

Also, I think that when we started this Parliament, we started with a foreign Mace but when we became independent we had a Mace that was presented to us by the British Government. When we became a Republic, we wanted a better Mace, but what we find here now is a wooden club and the wooden club is still in front of the Speaker. I think we should, before we come here again, have a better Mace than the one we have at present.

**The Chairman :** Order. I do not think that it is fair on the dignity of the House and the country to refer to the Mace here as wooden club. I think the hon. Gentleman should withdraw that expression. The English language is so flexible that there are many ways of saying a thing other than being rude.

**Mr Gbolagunte :** That is what it looks to me.

**Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) :** On a point of order. It appears that the hon. Gentleman does not know that this Mace was constructed by the greatest artist in this country with the greatest significance to this nation. Therefore, he must withdraw his statement.

**The Chairman :** The fact that a thing was made by the most qualified man does not necessarily mean that it is the best, but I am expecting the Member for Ibarapa (*Mr Gbolagunte*) to withdraw that expression. Rather than withdrawing it, he has confirmed that it looks to him like a club. It might well be that he does not enjoy as clear a sight as others but that is not what will appear in the *Hansard*.

**Mr Gbolagunte :** If it is the will of the Chairman that I withdraw that statement, I do. When we first started, Parliament was not meeting frequently enough but I want to say that this Session is about the longest Session we have had in that we have had so many sittings.

We on this side of the House pray that we should have longer sittings than we had been having. This time we have very long sittings and I think the Leader of the House should be praised but unfortunately, he is giving us so many night sittings. Perhaps many people are not attending these night sittings but when next we come here we expect that we shall have to stay here for many more days.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East) :** The hon. Gentleman said "we on this side". Which side is he referring to because he has changed sides several times ?

**Mr Gbolagunte :** I am referring to the side of the coalition Opposition. I was saying that when next we come here we expect to have a longer stay in Lagos instead of rushing through our business in the night.

[MR GBOLAGUNTE]

The Ministers, with due respect, are expected to come to this House to explain things to us when Parliament meets, but it appears to us that the Ministers are eager that we should go away from Lagos when we come here for debates. Yesterday, many Heads were rushed through. Instead of our debating these Heads they were rushed through because the Ministers would not like us to debate them for a long time. We had planned that the present Session should last until the 16th of this month, but it appears that due to the rush of yesterday, we had to do away with all the Heads. I do hope that when next we come here we shall be given plenty of time to discuss these Heads in full. We have many complaints against the different Heads, but due to the guillotine used by the Speaker we could not speak. I hope this will not continue.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North) : I am grateful for the opportunity I have to comment on this Head. First of all, I want to comment on the supremacy of Parliament. We all understand that Parliament is supreme not only in Nigeria but also in other parts of the world. But it appears to me that on several occasions there has been the tendency of the Cabinet to usurp the functions of the Parliament, with the result that we do not meet as frequently as we should. I think that if various burning problems facing the nation are to be solved, the Prime Minister should ensure that there is adequate consultation and sufficient consideration by this Parliament. It is no use keeping Parliament in recess indefinitely only for the Cabinet to be discussing various thorny questions facing the nation.

I want the Council of Ministers to realise that each Member of Parliament has a degree of influence in his own constituency, and if the Council chooses to sidetrack Members, I say that we shall be running a great risk in the country. The present position in which we find ourselves should not be left in the hands of the Council of Ministers. It is my considered opinion that we should meet as often as possible and decide whether to agree or to disagree—but this will be after we shall have had enough deliberations.

The other point is about the tendency of people making a mockery of this Parliament. Some of us are young parliamentarians, I

quite agree, but my impression of the present Parliament is low. It is something of which I cannot be proud. What with the Members trading with their positions in Parliament ! If a man has the confidence of his people to the extent that he is put up for election in the highest Legislature of the land, and which election entitles him to go with that name 'honourable', I think that person should be *honourable* in the right sense of the word. But some so-called honourable Members have pollute that word 'honourable' by making themselves cheap articles, marketable commodities, by moving from one side of the House to another. If this—

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : The hon. Member is misleading the House. If Members are being bought in this House, the money was provided by Dr Michael Okpara, the Premier of the East, and we have refused to be bought.

*Several N.C.N.C. Members rose.*

**The Chairman** : Order, order.

**Mr Mbah** : The hon. Member who interjected is an old man and I do not want to pay attention to him.

*Minister of State (Mr Mbazulike Amechi) and Mr Odulana exchange words.*

**The Chairman** : It is very unsightly for a Minister of State and an Opposition Member of Parliament to be exchanging words in the manner they are doing. I think there are better places for that to be done, but certainly I think the House of Representatives should be the House of Representatives and no more.

**Mr Mbah** : I am only appealing to the Member who interjected to desist from such actions ; but if he insists, I want to assure him that I shall be surprised if Dr Okpara will accept him as his house-boy. In any case, the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) was once a member of the N.C.N.C. and he sold his conscience to another party. That is why he is trying to interject.

**The Chairman** : Order, order. Mr Mba should refrain from provoking asides ; if he does not, I shall ask him to resume his seat.

**Mr Mbah** : The point I am trying to make is that we should always try to inspire confidence in the electorate, to ensure stability not only in the party to which we belong but also in the



*House of Representatives Debates*

2029

[*Appropriation (1964-65)*]

8 APRIL 1964

*Bill : Committee]*

2030

Government in which we are happy to serve as Parliamentarians. If by our performances, insincerity and mercenary politics we give the outside world the impression that Nigerian Parliamentarians are unreliable, I want to say that it will affect the respect and the integrity of this country. If Parliamentarians cannot show honesty and be able to convince the outside world that we are reliable and that we are men of integrity, our actions are bound to affect the stability of this Government and the unity of the country. There is no doubt about that, and that is the point I want to emphasise. I would like to advise that Members should make up their minds that whenever they come to this Parliament on the ticket of one party they should stick to that party through thick and thin. Otherwise, Members who cross from one party to another will be teaching the masses dishonesty in politics. I think it will be necessary for the Prime Minister to introduce legislation against carpet crossing. This act of carpet crossing gives us bad names abroad.

There is another point and that is that we have a duty to perform as Parliamentarians, as leaders of the people; and we must regard Nigeria as the basis for representative Government; to make sacrifices for the defence of our country, for her integrity, unity and independence; to discharge faithfully the general obligations imposed upon us by law and to contribute willingly to the development of the country whenever we are called upon so to do.

I want to refer to the present position in which we find ourselves and to say that we have a duty to preserve the unity of this country, and that should start right from this Parliament. Unfortunately, the Floor of this honourable House has been used of recent for all sorts of unprovoked attacks against one another, against tribes and things like that, and this has been allowed to continue.

It does not seem to me that this is the attitude of people who really want to preserve the unity of this country. If this continues, I am afraid this Parliament cannot inspire confidence in the minds of the people it claims to represent, and I am sorry to say that the future is gloomy. If we are tired of having a Federation, we still have a choice from two alternatives. We may agree to have a Confederation, or we go back to a unitary form of government. We can do this thing quietly without antagonising each other, and without leading the people to blood-

shed in this country. I want to say that if there is going to be unity in this country, Members of Parliament have a duty to lead the way. But from what I am now seeing from the impression being created here by people who are our leaders, I really have my doubts. This is really food for thought for the Prime Minister and his Cabinet.

Well, I do not want to mention the controversial issue which had been raised—the Census issue. In any case, I would expect the Prime Minister to do something as early as possible on the issue.

Coming to the question of Parliament and its privileges, the other day certain Members made certain complaints about the way they were treated. We repeat this thing every year. We talk about poor flats and the shutting down of the Victoria Island Flats. In the time of the old British stooges they built most of the flats we have now, and few of them, as they were, were provided with flats, fine food, and everything good. Some of the places we are now were inherited from them. But then when we have the people's Government—a representative Government—our Parliament is giving shabby treatment to its Members. We kept on saying it here.

We talk of dignity. If one has a stranger one cannot go to a restaurant and buy a bottle of Tango for that visitor. One has to go to Lagos, and in effect one burns one's petrol before one can buy a bottle of Tango. In a place like the Victoria Island where there is no recreational facility, Members should be given a small room with a TV set where they can entertain their visitors. But what do we have in this place? People are squeezing in small rooms.

What makes the matter worse is that whenever Parliament adjourns these Members' Flats are given to all sorts of people, and when we come back we find the place a stinking mess. And Members are expected to live in these Flats!

I want to say that some of us who have travelled abroad, or to Europe, have seen Members of Parliament Flats there. Some of us who have international visitors who come to see us many a time are ashamed to take them to our rooms, because the rooms do not command the respect which should be given to

[MR MBAH]

Members of Parliament. We are forced to go to the Federal Palace Hotel to entertain these visitors.

The other day Members complained about the telephone service in Members' Flats, and we were told that the matter was being looked into. The trouble now is that if one wants to telephone to Aba one cannot get through. The lady-operators there are complaining that the new P.B.X. just installed cannot be operated by them. Reports have been made in the right quarters. What is being done? Nothing has been done. The result is that we cannot get our calls through. This is a shabby treatment, and I do not expect this sort of thing from a Parliament.

Now, if one goes to the Bar, despite the fact that we have told the Minister about the exorbitant charges on refreshments, nothing has been done about it. We complained bitterly on the Floor of this House, but we were told that something would be done, but up till now nothing has been done about it.

Well, I think it is now high time when Parliament should do something about all these things. We should either be allowed to hire places on our own and Government pays for them, or the Parliament should make up its mind in conceding to us some of our entitlements.

The last point I want to make is about the staff of this Parliament. I want to say that the standard and the performances of the staff of this Parliament, both clerical and reporting, are excellent. (*Applause*). We are satisfied with the services rendered in the Pay Office, and we are satisfied with the services rendered by Reporters, Messengers, Porters, Cleaners, and everybody. It is not enough to talk about being satisfied with somebody; but we should try and show appreciation in a more practical form. These fellows cannot live on eulogy and encomium. We have to try and compensate them one way or the other.

Well, other Departments of Government resume work at eight o'clock in the morning and close finally at two in the afternoon. We have pleaded in this House that Parliament should be separated from the Civil Service. The Parliament should consist of a separate

Service as is the practice all over the world. We have always been told that this is being considered.

What happens now is that the entire staff of Parliament—Messengers or whatever they are—have to work for us after two o'clock (though we suspend sitting at one) until three o'clock in the afternoon when we resume sitting and stay on until six o'clock. At times they remain with us whenever it becomes necessary for us to sit at nine in the evening till twelve midnight. What have we done for them? One may ask what these people do after the sittings of Parliament. They do exactly what other civil servants do. On top of that, they give us extra hours without compensation. This is unfair.

I referred sometime ago to an incident which happened when one of them was returning home, and at Iddo Bridge he was waylaid and beaten to death. The other day a member of the staff of Parliament (a well-known singer) was crossing the Lagoon and he got drowned. This man was popularly known as *Ayakata*. These chaps died just like that. What did the Parliament do for them? The Parliament has done nothing for them. I am merely mentioning those two names: there are more cases. But they cannot complain because they are silent workers.

I am suggesting seriously that if Parliament continues to be part of the Civil Service, it would be proper for the Government to consider a sort of remuneration, at least, for the extra eleven hours which they give to Parliament whenever they work up till twelve midnight. They are not paid any overtime. This is a very important matter, and I am suggesting that Government should pay them overtime with arrears. If this is not accepted, Government should pay them bonus whenever Parliament is meeting to compensate them, because I know Government may say that the Regulation says that the clerical staff in the civil service should not receive overtime pay.

I hear the Minister of Finance say that they should be given time off. I do not accept the idea of giving them time off because when they are given time off they incur more expenses, and by so doing are put into more debt. On the other hand, there should be promotion

*House of Representatives Debates*

2033

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

8 APRIL 1964

Bill: Committee]

2034

prospects for some of them. Those of them who have the requisite qualifications should be lifted by way of promotion.

The other point is about the Porters in this Parliament. I do not like the uniform of the Porters. This Government should always think big. I am inviting the Minister in charge to go to the Ports Authority and see the Porters there. One would be ashamed of the Porters here if they are put side by side with those of the Ports Authority, or those of other Parliaments.

I hear the Minister of Finance say that he has seen the Porters in other Parliaments; but may I ask if their uniforms are the same as we have here in Nigeria? In any case, I want any Member who wishes to do so to go to the Nigerian Ports Authority and see what is happening there.

In conclusion, I am making my appeal a general one so that there may be improvement for all the staff, beginning from the messengers to the clerks, the officers and the reporters. The editor and the people in the library should be given consideration too. All of them deserve consideration, and I do not want the Minister to treat this matter with his usual cleverness.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh): I seek your protection, Sir. The word 'cleverness' does not seem to be complimentary.

**Mr Mbah**: It seems the Minister has answers for all problems and he will have to find an answer to satisfy us. We are not satisfied with the way the staff of the Parliament are being treated. By the time we come here again, we want something by way of improvement both in their service conditions and in their salaries and wages.

I beg to support.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi** (Afenmai East): I rise to support the expenditure on this Head. I would like to congratulate the Speaker, his Deputy, and the staff of the Parliament, as already done by previous speakers.

I would like to emphasize that there is need to pay all the staff of the Parliament overtime for the work they do after two o'clock each day. We quite appreciate the efforts they make, and all Members are serious when they say this.

The next point that I want to talk about is one that seems to be burning in the minds of people at the present moment, and that is the issue of carpet crossing. I could remember that—

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban): It seems that the Member wants to remind the House that he crossed from one party to the other.

**Mr Obi**: If the Member who raised the point of order has ears, let him listen for I have a story to tell him. I would like to say that I am one of the people who first raised a voice on the demand for a legislation against carpet crossing. I would like to ask if we are serious when we demand that a legislation be put up. The answer is that we are not serious. When I made the call, it fell on deaf ears because people felt that they were in comfortable positions. I am putting it to Members that this call—

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu): This hon. Gentleman says that Members are not serious. But he has been crossing from one party to another. He has been making reckless statements and has been withdrawing them. He is the least serious Member here.

**Mr Obi**: When there was crisis in the Action Group, these people received the legislators with open arms. This happened on the Floor of this House. Those who are now crying are the very people who received the Action Group legislators with open arms. I would like to say that these people cry because they have been liquidated in the Western Region. This is because money has failed to buy the Westerners.

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu** (Owerri South East): It seems that the Gentleman speaking does not understand the English language. The fact that certain marketable people have been bought in the Western Region does not mean that the electors have left the N.C.N.C. They are still firmly with the party. If the Western House is dissolved to-day, the N.C.N.C. will win if there is an election.

**Mr Obi**: I am serious when I say that we should face facts in discussing Nigerian politics. Here we have a party which welcomes the Northern People's Front, the United Middle Belt Congress, and the NEPU, all from the

[MR OBI]

North, and sees everything wrong with other parties allying with a party from the North. (*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman** : Order, order. I do hope Mr *Obi* will refrain from provocative language and that the Members on that side of the House will allow him to continue with his speech.

**Mr Obi** : It is more corrupt to be pretending that we are angels when we are all guilty of this same offence.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : In all seriousness, my hon. Friend must tell us how much he got when he crossed from the Action Group to the U.P.P. and from the U.P.P. to the N.P.C.

**The Chairman** : The Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) is wasting our time.

**Mr Obi** : What the last speaker is quarelling with is the fact that I have refused to be bought by the N.C.N.C.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : I do not think the Member for Afenmai East should continue to waste our time. He has admitted that he is a marketable commodity. All we say is that when hon. Member is elected to represent the people of his constituency, that Member should not make himself a marketable commodity.

**The Chairman** : Order, order. Surely, it is a breach of privilege to refer to a Member as a marketable commodity.

**Mr Obi** : I wish to emphasise the point that people should be serious when we talk about carpet crossing.

**Mr D. D. U. Okay** (Port Harcourt) : I beg to move that the Question be now put.

**The Chairman** : As far as I have noticed, all Members who raised points of order within the last ten minutes have not raised real points of order but something else looking more like points of disorder. I hear someone say that the Question should be put. Were it not that the Head being discussed is the Head for the Parliament, it would have been proper for me to put the Question now. In the circumstance, I shall let Mr *Obi* continue.

**Mr Obi** : Members are responsible people in their various constituencies, and I am saying this on behalf of myself and others that we are responsible people with consciences, and we are not prepared to allow our consciences to be mortgaged. I understand that it is the people who feel that there is need for southern solidarity only when a section of the Federation is in a political ruin. They are the people that shout loudest at this time. They should not be taken seriously because they are not serious too. I think that there should not be legislation on this. (*Interruptions*).

*Several Members rose—*

**The Chairman** : Order ! Will the Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi*) continue his speech ?

**Mr Obi** : I am saying that this thing should not be brought at the time these people feel that it should be brought to suit their own convenience. It should be brought at a time when all is quiet ; when people are reasonable, not when they are moved by emotion or sentiment. At the moment the huge sum of money that had been pumped into Western Nigeria has failed to yield dividend. (*Interruptions*).

*Several Members rose—*

**The Chairman** : Order ! Order ! Will the Member for Afenmai East continue please ?

**Mr Obi** : Thank you, Mr Chairman. I realise that some Members are afraid of the facts that I shall reveal. I have a lot of facts.

I would like to emphasise again that people make allegations that others do certain things which they themselves are fond of doing. If you look around, Mr Chairman, you will see that there should have been certain prominent Members on the side that is being disturbed now as a result of this matter, but who are not in the House at the moment. They are away, busy in corners of Western Nigeria. (*Interruptions*).

*Several Members again rose—*

**The Chairman** : Order ! Order ! Will the Member for Afenmai East continue his speech ?

**Mr Obi** : I would like to refer to some remarks made by the last speaker, the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*), with regard to the type of treatment which Members receive.

House of Representatives Debates

2037

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

8 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

2038

Some Members complained that things were very dear for them in the refectory. We know that this complaint has arisen from the fact that most of the Members are always broke and would like to have some money to help themselves. So, if the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) and others actually need some money, I have enough to give them. (*Interruptions*).

*The Member for Orlu South East (Mr Akwizou)* rose—

**The Chairman :** Order ! Will the Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi*) continue ?

**Mr Obi :** I want to say in all seriousness that the electorate, the voters, equally have their own conscience. If a Member no longer enjoys the confidence of his constituency that will be proved at an election. And I also want to say that we should not be moved by a mere ambition to rule. (*Interruptions*).

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I would like at this juncture to reply to some of the points made by hon. Members ; but before doing that I would like to thank you, Mr Chairman, for the able way in which you have handled affairs during this sitting. This point, I am sure, had inadvertently escaped hon. Members.

I can hear some Members complain that they had no time in which to say so. Yes, they now want more time to talk when they have used up the time given them in raising points of order a hundred times and have not allowed others to talk. Is that the type of freedom they want—freedom for themselves and not freedom for others ?

Now, I would like to say that I can claim to speak for all sides of this House if I express our appreciation for the very able way in which you, Mr Chairman, have handled the affairs of this Parliament. And I think that you have exhibited a wonderful spirit of magnanimity. I am sure it shows that, no matter what people say, we still have a lot of people in this country who represent the unity of this country. After all, Mr Speaker is not a tribeless individual, nor is he one that does not come from a Region. I am sure hon. Members will agree that in his duty as the Speaker of this

House he has exhibited the greatest impartiality. And I think that those of us here who appointed him as the Speaker should also emulate some of his good habits.

As the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) rightly pointed out, Members of the House of Representatives are leaders in their own right ; and leaders in their own right must exhibit a sense of responsibility, of leadership. I think in that regard we must realise that we representing millions of people in this great country of ours. Therefore, whatever we do and whatever we say, we must always remember that this country is put together as one by God and no man should try to put it asunder.

I think during these five years of our being together we have learnt to know more of ourselves. We have learnt to know our country better through the representatives here. But I think that it will be wrong of us at this last year of the life of this Parliament to join those who want to break us for political ambition or for political ends. It will be wrong for us to subscribe to such a thing. The fact of it is that we cannot drive one man or one tribe or one section away from Nigeria. We all belong to Nigeria. We all must remain together in Nigeria. And if we make mistakes or if we do things that are wrong, they should be pointed out in a spirit of brotherhood, and not taken to such bitter ends.

I think we know that appeals have been made. But in this regard, we must also appeal to our newspapers not to fan these embers of dissension and bitterness. Let them publish such things that will help the unity of this country and not something that will disintegrate us.

I think that this Parliament, despite what anybody can say, has performed its duty most creditably during these five years. Carpet crossing or no carpet crossing, we have done well. Whether we cross carpet or not the Parliament is still here. It is still the Parliament of the land. The Member for Afenmai East is cheering me, but I must let him know that I am not suggesting, however, that carpet crossing is a good thing. I am not at all suggesting that. All I want to say in that regard is—let the wheat and the tare grow together until the time of harvest.

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

The Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) made the point that the Civil Servants working in Parliament be paid overtime. I think this is the hon. Member's duty. When I was Minister of Labour we were good friends and I have known him since then. He is a good advocate of the workers, there is no doubt about that, but I know that my hon. Friend too has some workers and he has never paid them overtime.

In any case, I want to assure—

**Mr Mbah :** On a point of information, I am not an employer of labour, and so I cannot be obliged to pay overtime.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I have been to the home of the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*). He has got a driver, stewards and some people working for him in his firm and now he is telling this House that he is not an employer of labour. He is not a poor man. After all, money is not everything—

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : I wonder if I may ask the Leader of the House to make a statement on the news that the post of Clerk of the Parliaments is likely to be abolished and two Clerks with equal powers appointed instead ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** The Deputy Speaker should know better than myself. I do not know.

When Parliament is meeting these Civil Servants do some extra work for which no overtime is paid but when Parliament adjourns, they are given days off to compensate them for the hours of work they have put in ; I think that is better than paying somebody money.

**Several hon. Members :** No, no.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Hon. Members may say, no, but I am sure that the workers would enjoy the rest. Money cannot compensate somebody for his health and a man who works hard must have some rest.

**Mr Mbah :** Is not this is a serious point ? The Government is imposing this condition on them. Would it not be better for the Leader of the House to have consultation with the workers and know what is good for them ; whether they want to rest or to be paid ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** That is good for a trade union organisation.

The last point I want to make before the time for interruption of Business is that my hon. Friend the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) said Parliament did not meet enough. I am sure that he was speaking for himself.

In 1960, Parliament met five times—January, March, August, October and November.

I hear the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) interjecting in an undertone that "this is not enough" but the hon. Gentleman is always in Ikorodu and never in this House.

In 1961, Parliament met four times, March, July, August and November. In 1962, March, May, August and December. In 1963, Parliament met five times, March, June, August, September, October. We met in January and we are meeting now again in March, 1964.

Let Members not deceive themselves. Hon. Members do not want the House to sit with only a few Members, with nearly all the seats vacant. Even during the night sittings, some sections of this House used to be completely vacant and hon. Members come here and say Parliament should sit one hundred times.

I agree that the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) who made this suggestion attends the House regularly, but hon. Members would agree that a lot of Members do not come to the House. Although hon. Members complain that their accommodation is not good enough, yet they prefer to stay in their flats most of the time instead of coming to the House.

£750,900 for Head 62—Parliament—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 63.—FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

£65,480 for Head 63—Federal Public Service Commission—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 64.—CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT FUND

£1,350,000 for Head 64—Contributions to the Development Fund—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

House of Representatives Debates

2041

[Appropriation (1964-65) Bill]

8 APRIL 1964

[Adjournment]

2042

HEAD 65.—NON-STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS  
OF REVENUE

£769,620 for Head 65—Non-Statutory Appropriations of Revenue—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

Schedule to the Bill agreed to.

Postponed Clauses 1 and 2 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

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

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South): I wish to make a general statement on the economy of this country. It has been said in this House that our economy is—

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja): On a point of order, it is past a quarter to six.

**Mr Speaker**: The Speaker is not blind.

**Mr Ememe**: It has been said that the economy of this country is buoyant and that our foreign exchange is in order. That means our currency commands great value internationally. All these things—

**Mr Speaker**: Order! These are points which the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) should have raised during the Second Reading. During the Third Reading, we normally discuss the technicalities of a Bill and some omissions, not general economic policy.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

IBOS IN THE NORTH

**Mr D. N. Chukwu** (Awgu North): This nation is blessed to have a good father and leader in the person of Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, the Prime Minister of this country. The Prime Minister on several occasions has appealed to this House and the

Nigerian public both individually and collectively to keep calm in order to achieve peace and unity in this country.

It is said that seeing is believing. I went to the Eastern Region during the Easter recess of Parliament and during my absence to the Eastern Region, the Prime Minister appealed to the nation on two occasions to maintain the peace and unity of this country. The Prime Minister on these two occasions also tried to wave aside the allegation that some Ibos in the Northern Region were being told to go back to the Eastern Region.

As I have said, seeing is believing. I have seen many people coming home to the East with their families from the Northern Region, but a statement was made in this Parliament that it was false that people were ejected from the Northern Region.

I am now appealing to the Prime Minister to give a mandate to all the Members of this House who have come from the Eastern Region to go back to their respective constituencies and tell their people who have been ejected from the North that they can now go back. If the Prime Minister does that, then we shall know that—

**Mr J. O. Ede** (Idoma North): I want to tell the Member for Awgu North (*Mr Chukwu*) that those people he saw coming from the North to the East are those who were returning home to enjoy their leave. Those people were on leave when he saw them.

**Mr Chukwu**: I want to say that we all know what human psychology is. These people who are returning to the Eastern Region from the North are trying to convince their people that they were ejected from the North, and I am sure that Members will agree with me that the people at home will not know that this is false. If the Prime Minister can give us the mandate I have asked for it will be better, because this will give us the authority to go back to the East and tell these people to go back to the North.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North): I cannot understand what the Member for Awgu North (*Mr Chukwu*) is saying. Surely, if I go to a man's house and the man says that he does not want me, I think I should go back home. What is the hon. Gentleman trying to advocate?

[MR MBAH]

Is he saying that if I go to a man's house and I am told that I am not wanted I should not go back? I do not know what kind of mandate he is asking for.

**Mr Chukwu :** I want the Prime Minister to tell us that those people who were ejected from the North should go back, that nobody will be molested, because as the leader and father of this country he is expected to give protection to everybody.

**The Prime Minister :** When I made my statement to this House about the question of some Nigerian citizens who were alleged to have been driven out of the North, I made it with full authority because I was in touch with the Government of the Northern Region, I was in touch too with the Native Authorities which were supposed to be affected by the allegation; and I still maintain what I said then.

Although it was stated somewhere else that my statement was astonishing, I was surprised to know that, because I told the House the truth. Not a single man was driven out of the North and nobody has had his property confiscated in the Northern Region. Some people had left the Region of their own, but I understand that many of them have now gone back.

There is no need at all for the Prime Minister to give his blessing to any Nigerian to visit any part of Nigeria. These people who have left the North of their own accord are free to go back if they so choose. Nobody had asked them to leave, and some of the Members who know the truth can tell the people the truth.

I was not telling the House a lie at all. None of these people was asked to leave and nobody's property was taken away. So, I want to say that Nigerians are free to move about in their own country; they are free to live in any part of their country and there is no need for any Prime Minister to give any assurance in this respect. (*Hear, hear.*)

#### STATE OF AFFAIRS IN WESTERN NIGERIA

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) :** I seize this opportunity to raise a matter of national importance, and I want to say that it is with the greatest sense of responsibility and a heavy mind that I am raising the matter.

During the last few weeks, there have been various instances of lawlessness in the Western

Nigeria. I want to say that, from whatever it emanates, lawlessness must be condemned in the strongest terms.

The regret is that many high places in the Western Region have been closely associated with every word of the following incidents :

The attack on the N.C.N.C. Headquarters in Ibadan.

The attack on the N.C.N.C. offices in Oshogbo and Ogbomosho.

The attack of N.C.N.C. members in Badagry.

The famous Ilesha incident.

I have some information in connection with these incidents which I am prepared to place at the disposal of the Police.

**Chief D. A. Ogunleye (Ede-Ejigbo) :** On a point of order, I want to know from the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) whether he is moving a Motion to declare a state of emergency in the Western Region again.

**Mr Ogunsanya :** I have some information which I am prepared to place at the disposal of the Police on the allegation of recruitment of thugs from Mushin area and Lagos, by agents of a certain political party.

The Police should be able to work without pressure from any quarter and without fear or favour.

Another important thing is the rumour which is now widely spreading in the West that the Government of Sir Abubakar has agreed to extend the life of the Western House of Assembly by five years. I know that this cannot be true, but a statement from the Prime Minister will clear the air.

Finally, I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister to strengthen the machinery for ensuring law and order in the West. I have confidence that Mr L. O. Edet, the Inspector-General of Police, is up to the task.

**The Prime Minister :** I think that all hon. Members are already aware that the Federal Government has no power under the present Constitution to extend the life of any of the Regional Legislatures. We have no power at all. That is the first point I want to make.



House of Representatives Debates

2045

[Adjournment]

8 APRIL 1964

[Adjournment]

2046

Secondly, I would like to assure hon. Members that the Police will carry out their duties in every part of this Federation without fear or favour. It is true that during the heat of political campaigns and lectures, politicians make a lot of statements, and it is unfortunate that they expect the Police to give them protection even though they some times direct their statements or lectures against the Nigerian Police. In such a situation the Police will naturally find it difficult to help.

It is my stand always, with the Inspector-General of Police, that the Police should not listen to those politicians who threaten that members of the Police Force would lose their promotion, that they would be transferred and that this or that would happen to them. I have assured all the rank and file of the Police that non of these things would happen to them. No politician has any power in the promotion of the Police. I have no such power myself ; of course I have in the matters relating to the

Inspector-General of Police, but not in matters affecting other officers of the Police. We have got a Police Service Commission to deal with them.

Now, I have heard of the matter raised by the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*), but he has not told us who attacked these places. He did not tell us whether the N.C.N.C. attacked their own Secretariat. (*Laughter*). But as I said, I have heard about all these things and I must say that the matter is well under control and the Police are very vigilant.

I hope that all the political parties will co-operate with the Police, because if they co-operate there will be no need for all this talk at all.

*And it being 6 p.m., Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 5 (7).*

*Adjourned accordingly at 6 p.m.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 9th April, 1964

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Student Demonstrators

**O.518. Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Prime Minister, why tear gas was used to disperse a demonstration of responsible citizens like University undergraduates.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Alhaji Sanni Gezawa):** The question presumably refers to demonstrations by students of the University of Ibadan on the 25th February last, when 6 lorry loads of students arrived at the out-skirts of Lagos with the intention of demonstrating in the Federal capital in defiance of the ban on public processions and assemblies that is still in force in Lagos. They were intercepted by the Police who advised them against entering the Federal capital. All efforts at reason and persuasion failed, and in compliance with the practice of using a minimum of force to ensure that the law is not flouted, tear smoke was used to disperse the students. The students used stones and other missiles.

**Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East):** Will the Minister tell this House why the students were demonstrating?

**Mr Amadi:** In view of the answer given by the Minister of Health on the effect of tear gas on the eyes, and considering how important the eyes are to undergraduates, would the Prime Minister tell us why he thought it necessary to use tear gas rather than any other means for dispersing the students?

Ekpoma Police Post

**O.519. Chief D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Prime Minister, what towns are to be served by the Police Station at Ekpoma.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa:** Ekpoma Police Station serves Egoro, Ekpoma, Ukhun Ido and Urobi.

National Universities Commission

**O.520. Chief D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Prime Minister, whether in the interests of effective integration and co-ordination he will transfer the National Universities Commission to the Ministry of Education.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa:** No, Sir.

**Chief Oronsaye:** Why?

Special Constabulary

**O.521. Chief D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Prime Minister, what is the total strength of the special constabulary in Nigeria.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa:** The total strength of Nigeria's Special Constabulary in Nigeria is 3,470.

Police Dogs

**O.664. Mr P. I. Ejukwa** asked the Prime Minister, how many police dogs have so far been brought to Nigeria from Britain to help in crime detection; and what arrangements are being made to train local dogs for this purpose.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa:** The Nigeria Police Force has imported from Britain, 6 police dogs which are at present being maintained by the Dog Section of the Force as a pilot scheme in the use of dogs for crime detection. There are also 10 people dogs which have been imported by the Nigerian Railway Corporation and trained by the Dog Section of the Nigeria Police Force.

It is proposed to breed from these dogs already imported, more dogs which will be trained locally for crime detection. There are no local dogs suitable for training for the purpose.

Nigeria Police in the Congo

**O.667. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Prime Minister, how many members of the Nigeria Police are still serving with the United Nations Forces in Congo (Leopoldville).

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa:** There are 13 Superior Police Officers, 8 Inspectors and 375 Rank and File of the Nigeria Police Force at present serving with the United Nations Forces in the Congo (Leopoldville).

**Policewomen**

**O.668. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Prime Minister, how many women officers are in the Nigeria Police Force to-date.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa :** There are at present 357 policewomen in the Nigeria Police Force. Their ranks are as follows :—

Deputy Superintendent ..	1
Assistant Superintendents ..	3
Inspectors .. ..	27
Sergeants .. ..	15
Corporals .. ..	9
Constables .. ..	302

**Police Barracks**

**O.669. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Prime Minister, if he is aware that the number of barracks provided for Police Officers is insufficient, particularly in Eastern Nigeria, what is the number of quarters provided in the years 1961 to 1963; and if he will state his plans for the expansion of police barracks all over the country.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa :** Yes, Sir, but more barracks are now being built. The number of barracks and quarters built for Police Inspectors and Rank and File since 1961 are as follows :—

1961-62 .. ..	557
1962-63 .. ..	898
1963-64 .. ..	1,189
	<hr/>
	2,644

It is proposed to build 1,282 more quarters and barracks in 1964-65.

**Proposed Etche Police Post**

**O.670. Mr J. A. Akor** asked the Prime Minister what progress has been made in the plan to build a police post in Etche County Council area of Ahoada Division.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa :** The matter is under active consideration.

**O.671. Mr J. A. Akor** asked the Prime Minister, whether he will reconsider his reply to question No. O.640 of 15th November, 1961 in regard to the establishment of a police post in Etche District; and if he will make a statement.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa :** The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to Question No. O.670.

**1963 Census Field Staff**

**O.672. Mallam Yushau A. Mohammed** asked the Prime Minister, how many supervisors and enumerators were appointed throughout the Federation for the recent Census.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. A. Lana) :** 25,000 supervisors and 127,000 enumerators were appointed for the 1963 population census.

**O.673. Mallam Yushau A. Mohammed** asked the Prime Minister, how many census inspectors were appointed and exchanged by each Region.

**Mr Lana :** A total of 9,300 Inspectors were appointed and exchanged between the Regions and the Federal territory of Lagos. The details are as follows :—

(a) The North sent to :—

East .. ..	630
West .. ..	400
Mid-West .. ..	120
	<hr/>
	1,150

(b) The East sent to :—

North .. ..	2,000
West .. ..	400
Mid-West .. ..	120
	<hr/>
	2,520

(c) The West sent to :—

North .. ..	2,000
East .. ..	630
Mid-West .. ..	120
	<hr/>
	2,750

(d) The Mid-West sent to :—

North .. ..	500
East .. ..	630
West .. ..	400
	<hr/>
	1,530

(e) Lagos sent to :—

North .. ..	740
East .. ..	300
West .. ..	210
Mid-West .. ..	90
	<hr/>
	1,350
	<hr/>
	9,300

**O.674. Mallam Yushau A. Mohammed** asked the Prime Minister, how much was paid, respectively, to census supervisors, enumerators and inspectors.

**Mr Lana :** ₦186,000 was paid to 9,300 Inspectors at the rate of ₦20 per Inspector, ₦225,000 to 25,000 Supervisors at the rate of ₦9 and ₦889,000 to 127,000 Enumerators at the rate of ₦7.

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** (Ahoada Central) : Does the Prime Minister not think that this amount was wasteful since those census figures are unacceptable to at least two Governments of the Federation ?

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### Nigeria's Diplomatic Representatives

**O.525. Mr N. D. Ukah** asked the Minister of External Affairs, if he will state the names of Nigerian ambassadors and principal representatives abroad, when they were appointed ; and when their respective tenure of office will end.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs** (Mr M. O. Okilo) : Nigeria has one permanent representative at the United Nations in New York, 11 ambassadors and 6 high commissioners.

A full list giving their names, postings and other particulars required by the Member for Owerri North East will be published in the Official Report.

#### Relations with Fernando Po and Cameroun

**O.526 Mr N. D. Ukah** asked the Minister of External Affairs, what practical measures he has for improving co-operation between Nigeria and Fernando Po, and between Nigeria and the Cameroun Republic.

**Mr Okilo :** The hon. Member may be aware of widely publicised reports of conferences held between representatives of the Governments of Nigeria and the Cameroun Republic with a view to concluding agreements for co-operation in many fields, including customs, free movement of goods and persons, communications, air and tele-communication links, scientific research, cultural matters and education.

With regard to the Island of Fernando Po, Nigeria has consistently shown an interest in the steady development of that Island towards

self-government. Various representatives of nationalist movements from time to time visited Lagos to explain their problems and difficulties to the Nigerian Government.

### LAGOS AFFAIRS

#### Surulere Housing Scheme

**O.676. Mr U. U. Eko** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, whether he is aware that the Government Quarters at Surulere built exclusively for people in the lower income group are now being occupied by other classes of people ; and if he will make an investigation.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : The answer is not yet ready, Sir.

### EDUCATION

#### Inter-Regional Secondary Schools

**O.527. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Education, whether the proposed inter-regional secondary schools are now operating ; and where they are situated.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education** (Mr D. C. Ugwu) : The answer to this question is covered by the answer to question No. O.366 given on the Floor of this House on 26th March, 1964.

#### Advanced Teacher Training College

**O.528. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Education, if he will state the admission policy of the Federal Advanced Teacher Training College.

**Mr Ugwu :** Our policy is to admit, into the Federal Advanced Teacher Training College, candidates, from all over the Republic, who satisfy the college entrance requirements, namely, that :

(i) applicants must possess Teachers' Grade II Certificate, or West African School Certificate or its equivalent ;

(ii) such applicants must be successful at the selection exercises conducted by the college authorities ; and

(iii) finally, candidates selected must be sponsored by their governments.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : Selection exercises embrace a wide quarter. What goes into the exercises ?

**Mr Ukah :** Is there any syllabus prepared in order to equip students who are preparing for such supplementary exercises ?

**Mr Ugwu :** There is usually a preliminary interview.

#### "Joint Academic Council"

**O.679. Mr P. O. Akpan** asked the Minister of Education, how far has the Joint Academic Council succeeded in maintaining uniformity in the standard of education in our five universities.

**Mr Ugwu :** There is no Joint Academic Council in Nigeria. However, the Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Nigeria Universities in co-operation with the National Universities Commission have been studying ways and means of maintaining a common standard for all Nigerian University degrees.

#### Federal Government Scholars

**O.680. Mr J. A. Akor** asked the Minister of Education, how many Nigerian students are studying abroad and in our universities on Government scholarship.

**Mr Ugwu :** The number of Federal Government scholars now studying in various institutions at home and abroad is 1,636, broken down as follows :—

(1) Nigerian Universities	..	790
(2) Institutions abroad	..	846

#### School Fees

**O.684. Mr U. U. Eko** asked the Minister of Education, if he will take appropriate steps to reduce the high school fees charged by secondary schools in Lagos in order to assist parents and guardians in the lower income group.

**Mr Ugwu :** School budgets are examined annually by the Ministry of Education and the attention of the school authorities is drawn to cases where fees are too high or too low. In general the fees are not considered too high and impoverished parents can always apply for scholarships for their children.

**Mr Ukah :** Does the Minister not think it fit to adopt the method which has been recently adopted in the Eastern Region and which is that of laying a limit to the amount of school fees payable by secondary school children in any one year ?

**The Minister of Education (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku) :** I do not think it fit meanwhile. We shall look into the matter if there is a complaint of fees being too high, but at present there is no such complaint and the fees are comparatively low.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) :** On a point of order, Sir, may I refer to Order 14 (7), and I quote :

*If a Member is not present to ask his question, or if the question is not reached before 10.30 a.m., the answer shall be printed in the Official Report, unless the Member shall have signified his wish to postpone his question before it was called or before 10.30 a.m. as the case may be.*

I raised this question a few days ago and Mr Speaker directed that answers should be published in the *Hansard*. But despite all efforts made by the Clerk and his Staff, the Ministry of External Affairs refused to co-operate. Even this morning, we are also witnesses to the fact that a Parliamentary Secretary who should deliver an answer in this House was completely absent. It is already noted that some of the Ministries are not co-operating in such a way that these answers will appear in the *Hansard*, and it is most embarrassing to any legislator to find that answers to his questions are not published in the *Hansard*.

I beg Mr Speaker to ask the Ministers to co-operate in this respect.

**Mr Speaker :** I am not sure what particular question the hon. Member is referring to at the moment, but if the hon. Member would like to give me the particulars, perhaps I should be able to ask the Minister concerned to try and give us replies to those questions, so that the answers would be published.

**Chief Oronsaye :** I gave the actual numbers of the questions concerned and I am sure the Clerks will testify to this.

**Mr Speaker :** We are hoping that the Minister of Finance will make a statement on that.

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

##### 1962-63 DIRECTOR OF AUDITS' REPORT

**The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) :** I rise to lay on the table of Parliament the Director of Federal Audit's

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

Report on the 1962-63 Accounts. I regret to say that it is most unfortunate that this Report has been made public long before Government has had an opportunity of considering it and before it was laid on the Table of this honourable House.

No doubt, Members will have read with considerable interest the newspaper reports on the Report. I have made enquiries regarding the circumstances under which the report was made available to the public before it was placed on the Table of Parliament and if possible, it is my desire to apportion responsibilities.

In general, I should like to state that quite a number of the serious allegations made in the Report could have been satisfactorily cleared with the appropriate Accounting Officers themselves if they were brought to their notice. I have sufficient evidence to show that a number of allegations in the report were satisfactorily cleared with the Director of Audit and it was absolutely unnecessary to have included them in the Report.

A detailed study of the Report shows the financial position of the Federal Government for the period 1962-63. The Report discloses a total revenue of £115.82 million, resulting in an overall revenue shortfall of £8.95 million due primarily to a fall in Customs Revenue of £8.14 million and Interest and Repayments of £1.22 million. This shortfall resulted in a net loss of revenue by the Federal Government to the tune of some £7 million. The Report also discloses a revenue surplus of some £8.45 million, all, with the exception of £0.5 million, was transferred to the Development Fund, of which £4.24 million reflected in the accounts and the balance transferred by resolution of this House. The total recurrent expenditure, on the other hand, was £60.1 million.

The Report draws attention to an expenditure of £408,040 without Parliamentary authority. It would be recalled that at the meeting of Parliament in January last, this over-expenditure was regularised by a Supplementary Appropriation Act. My Ministry is, however, examining the causes of these excesses, and I shall not hesitate to recommend appropriate disciplinary measures if I am satisfied that the excesses could have been avoided.

The Director's Report deals exhaustively with losses of cash and stores and blames most of

them on the failure to adhere to, and non-compliance with the existing regulations on the prevention of fraud and other financial irregularities. My Ministry is actively engaged in ways and means of ensuring that the existing regulations are rigidly adhered to by all Accounting Officers. I am, however, pleased that the Director of Audit rightly pointed out in his Report that these losses were not due to any faulty system.

It is not my intention that on this occasion, I should cover the work of the Public Accounts Committee. That Committee will have a full opportunity of examining the Director of Audit's Report in great detail and it will be in a better position to weigh the volume of explanations which will be submitted by the various Ministries and Departments. But in view of the considerable interest which this report has evoked from the general public, I feel duty bound, at this stage, to make a general statement on some of the allegations.

With regard to the disclosures of the misuse of official transport by some senior officials, Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, these would appear to have been exaggerated. The facts are, however, being investigated. In cases, where we have observed some discrepancies, steps have already been taken to tighten up control.

Regarding the allegations in paragraph 38 of the Report concerning the expenses in connection with a Ministerial tour overseas, the facts are that proper statements were rendered in the usual way to the appropriate Accounting Officer. By the time the Director's Report was completed, the Audit Department had not had the opportunity of examining the papers, but I can assure this honourable House that the accounts were properly rendered and the necessary formalities were completed before the end of the financial year to which it relates.

It is superfluous for anybody to expect that an economic tour in which both Regional and Federal Ministers and businessmen went all over the world and spent only £10,000 would have been used to defraud the Government. After all we did not go by canoe. This is the £10,000 that we are now making all the fuss in the world about, as if somebody has embezzled Government money.

As regards the adverse report on the Ministry of External Affairs incorporated in paragraphs 63-67 of the Report, I am reliably informed that the Director of Audit addressed a letter to that Ministry to ascertain whether the internal Audit section should not be under the direct control of a Chief Accountant. On the 29th of August, 1963, a reply was addressed to the Director of Federal Audit making it very clear to him that the internal Audit section was not under a Chief Accountant but was directly responsible to the Permanent Secretary in his capacity as an Accounting Officer.

So much fuss was made about this, as if the accounting was not being controlled by a senior officer. The Permanent Secretary is the most senior Government official in the Ministry of External Affairs, and if he cannot look into, and control the accounts of the Ministry, I wonder who else will be more competent.

It should have been correct to expect that the Director of Audit should have re-investigated his allegation before submitting his Report on the 16th of November—nearly three months after the allegation was denied by the Ministry of External Affairs.

Paragraph 56 of the Report deals with the debiting of public funds of the cost of packing personal effects of External Affairs Officers on transfer. Because of the peculiar nature of this Ministry and in view of the frequency of transfers of personnel in the Ministry, approval was given in 1957 by the then Chief Secretary's Office and subsequently by the Cabinet Office that the heavy luggage of External Affairs Officers should be carefully packed by firms which were experts in such matters in order to avoid severe damage to property, resulting from frequent transfers. Investigations disclose, however, that in most cases, the costs of packing breakables and other delicate personal effects are considerably in excess of the disturbance allowances paid to officers who travel from one place to another and it would be grossly unfair to allow these officers to bear much extra costs for what is no fault of theirs.

The Director also complains at paragraph 57 of his Report about the payment of regular transport allowance of 300 francs (approximately £4 (per month without written authority).

This of course only relates to our legation in the Ivory Coast. The local conditions of employment of Ivory Coasters are determined by a Labour Board established by the Government of the Ivory Coast. Negotiations are normally undertaken with the local employee and later cleared with the appropriate Government authority in that country. These terms, I understand, are reviewed from time to time, and arise mainly from the general salary structure in the Ivory Coast. It must be emphasized that these local allowances are payable only to nationals of the Ivory Coast serving in our Embassy at Abidjan and not to Nigerian Officers posted from Lagos. The fact is that these local regulations must be respected and the expenditure is therefore inevitable.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): On a point of order, what the Minister of Finance told us here was that he would allow Members to discuss the Auditor's Report fully, and not by way of a Ministerial Statement, whereby Members will not have the opportunity of discussing it.

I am sure that the Minister has got something under his sleeves which he does not want us to know. I am convinced that the Auditor is doing his job well and the Government should not do anything to frighten him. If the Government or the Minister of Finance does not want the Audit Department to tell this nation that something is going wrong somewhere, the Minister should tell us.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: The Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*), will never cease to exhibit his ignorance on the Floor of this House. The fact of it is that earlier in this statement I said that the report would be going to the Public Accounts Committee of this House and when the Committee's report was here you could file a Motion to debate whatever you wanted debated. The Member for Ijebu South can then table whatever he has under his trousers for debates.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos Central): We would like your ruling on this matter, Mr Speaker, as to whether the Minister of Finance is justified in using this particular procedure.

A Ministerial Statement is supposed to be a non-controversial statement that will not evoke debate. But the way the Minister is

[MR DOSUNMU]

going about it is certainly evoking debate, and I think that it is most unfair. If he wants this House to discuss the matter, let the Public Accounts Committee deal with it first, send the report to us, then both sides to the issue will be heard. For the Minister to be castigating the Auditor one-sidedly as he is doing is most unfair and an insult to this Parliament.

**Mr Speaker** : I would like to draw the attention of the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) who has asked for my ruling, to Standing Order 12 (1) and (2). I should have thought that this is a familiar case to the House, but if the House does not feel I am wasting its time, perhaps, I can clear this matter before we proceed. This portion of the Standing Orders reads as follows :

12 (1)—*A paper may be presented to the House by a member of the Council of Ministers and its presentation shall be entered upon the Votes and Proceedings :*

*Provided that papers may be forwarded to the Clerk on any day during the existence of a Parliament and the delivery of such papers to the office of the Clerk shall be deemed to be for all purposes the presentation of them to the House.*

(2) *A Member presenting a paper may make a short explanatory statement of its contents.*

I think that the Minister's comments on this report are in order.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji** (Egba East) : The Government Auditor is in the same position under our Constitution as the Judges of the High Court and the Judges of the Supreme Court. Therefore I do not think that it is proper for the Minister of Finance to be attacking the Director of Federal Audit the way he is doing. He cannot do it.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** (Dr T. O. Elias) : May I say that is not entirely correct—

**Chief Rosiji** : I made a point of order and I want a ruling from the Chair. The Attorney-General is not the Speaker.

**Mr Speaker** : I do appreciate that the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) raised a point of order, but in view of what has been said here

and there, including the newspapers, perhaps the Attorney-General will help us in this respect.

**Dr Elias** : The provision of our Constitution in regard to the submission of the Auditor's report is as follows. I will read only the relevant portions, namely section 134 (1), (2) and (3).

"134 (1)—*There shall be a Director of Audit for the Federation, whose office shall be an office in the public service of the Federation.*

(2) *The public accounts of the Federation and of all officers, courts and authorities of the Federation shall be audited and reported on by the Director of Audit of the Federation, and for that purpose the Director or any person authorized by him in that behalf shall have access to all books, records, returns and other documents relating to those accounts."*

I now come to sub-paragraph 3, and this is vital :

"(3) *The Director of Audit of the Federation shall submit his reports to the Minister of the Government of the Federation responsible for finance, who shall cause them to be laid before both Houses of Parliament."*

The point of the government in this matter is that the report was released without any compliance with this particular provision of the Constitution. The report is only taken cognizance of in this House when so properly presented by the Minister of Finance, which is what he is doing now.

The report was illegally released to the public and made the subject of comments, both inside and outside this House. The Government is entitled to answer those charges before the Public Accounts Committee deals with it.

**Chief Rosiji** : It is not my intention to create any dispute in this House, but I think that the point which has been raised by the Attorney-General is irrelevant to the point at issue. The point at issue is that the Auditor—*(Interruptions)*.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : The Minister of Finance is complying with the request of this House. When the report was illegally released we in this House demanded that the Minister should give us explanations to the points made in that report. That is what the



Minister of Finance is doing, and anybody standing up on the other side of the House to say that he should not expose the falsehood and give us grounds on which we shall comment on the report is a false Member of this House.

**Mr Dosumu :** Will the Minister of Finance give us the assurance that we shall debate this matter after he has made his speech? That is the crux of the whole matter. If he is laying the *Paper* on the Table let him do so; it is not correct for him to make a long speech in support of it. And the provisions cited by the Attorney-General are irrelevant to the issue.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East):** I wish to draw the attention of the Members to Standing Order 26(8) which clearly specifies the persons or offices that cannot be the subject matter of debate on the Floor of the House.

26(8) *The conduct of Her Majesty, members of the Royal Family, the Governor-General, Members of the House and judges or the performance of judicial functions by other persons shall not be raised except upon a substantive motion; et cetera.*

Why I am mentioning this is that I think there has been some erroneous impression, even outside this House, that the Director of Federal Audit's office cannot be discussed on the Floor of this House.

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East):** On a point of order, a number of hon. Members who have spoken are misleading this House and the public from focusing their attention on the vital points at issue.

The vital point at issue is not the conduct of the Minister of Finance himself. The vital point at issue is that in this country when we politicians, Members of Parliament and top civil servants are afraid for our necks and fortunes, it is possible for people who are in power to misuse public funds.

In these circumstances, it is only the Director of Federal Audit who can bring out such discrepancies. Therefore, the Director of Federal Audit must be protected. It must not only be that he is protected, but must be seen to appear that he is protected.

The Minister of Finance is a powerful man in the Cabinet and in the country, and if he

focuses his attention and anger on the Director of Federal Audit, it has the effect of terrorising this officer and preventing him from carrying out his responsibilities to the country. If that happens, the country will suffer and nobody will realise it. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. I can hardly believe those hon. Members who wish to make the point that the Director of Audit has been attacked on the Floor of this House by a powerful Minister.

Since the Minister of Finance has been speaking, he has not attacked the person of the Director of Audit. (*Interruptions*)

Order! The Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*) and the Member for Oyo South (*Mr Kolade*) must maintain silence.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** It is natural for small men like the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) to want to be seen.

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu :** On a point of order, thank you Mr Speaker for protecting my right. It is unfair and unparliamentary for the Minister of Finance to refer to me as a small person. I am big at the vital organs—at the head and at the heart; whereas the Minister of Finance is only big around the middle.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East):** On a point of order, I would like to refer to Order 27 (1) which says that—

*“Any Member deviating from the provisions of these orders may be immediately called to order by Mr Speaker or the chairman, or by a Member rising to a point of order. A Member rising to a point of order shall simply direct attention to the point he desires to bring to notice and submit it to Mr Speaker or the chairman for decision.”*

I think that a good deal of our time is being wasted by unnecessary points of order. I think it will be good for Mr Speaker to invoke this section so as to maintain real order in the House.

**Mr Speaker :** I quite appreciate the point of view of the Member for Benin East (*Chief Oronsaye*) in regard to this order. I must say that I have been a little bit reluctant to bully those hon. Members who have been disorderly in the House because of the circumstances in which we are now.

[MR SPEAKER]

It is very easy for people to misinterpret one another's actions. That is why, I have been a little bit lenient on Members, otherwise, I would have taken stern measures to see that order is maintained in this House.

I do hope, Members will appreciate this point of view and would co-operate. In future, hon. Members should learn to abide by their own Standing Orders.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** With regard to the allegation at paragraph 59, on the payment of allowances and the air fare of an officer, his wife and daughter travelling from London to Geneva, I am reliably informed that the officer in question was a first Secretary in the Nigeria High Commission in London. He had completed his assignment and was selected by the United Nations for secondment and training in the United Nations European office in Geneva.

It is not unusual for officers going on transfer to be accompanied by their families. These facts, I understand were made known to the Director of Audit. Paragraph 61 of the Report also refers to the fictitious and fraudulent claims of an Executive Officer in respect of mileage allowance. The Director of Audit, however, omits to add that these irregularities were promptly discovered and the excess claims of the officer recovered. The officer's appointment in the Public Service has since been terminated.

Some hon. Members are saying that the Director of Audit reported it, I must say that he did not report it.

As I have said earlier, it is not my intention to cover the work of the Public Accounts Committee. Much as I appreciate the duties and responsibilities of the Director of Audit, to this Parliament, I feel that his comments on the Federal Government Accounts should as much as possible, be fair and reasonable. If most of the allegations contained in the report were discussed directly with the appropriate accounting officer responsible, I am certain that satisfactory answers should have been given and that there could not have been the necessity of painting such a gloomy picture of the Federal Government finances.

I promised to make a statement on the use of vehicles by Ministers in reply to paragraph 41 of the Report of the Director of Federal Audit.

Government motor vehicles are not permanently allocated to Ministers. They could not therefore have full-time use of the motor vehicles. Ministers are called upon to pay for trips undertaken for private purposes with Government vehicles.

One hundred and seven motor vehicles used for the Independence Celebrations were sold to members of the public. Unfortunately, the expatriate officer who organised the sales allowed the purchasers of most of the vehicles to take them away contrary to the existing regulations relating to sales of Government property.

Following the investigations carried out on the sales it was possible to collect payments in respect of 97 vehicles thus leaving a balance of 10 vehicles for which full payments have not yet been made. Of these, one is being paid for instalmentally and others are now the subject of further investigations with a view to instituting legal action against the purchasers.

In fairness to the substantive holder of the post of the Director of Federal Audit, I am not apportioning any blame to him.

In fact, he has come to me, and has expressed regret in the way the report has been prepared and circulated to the general public before it was handed over to the Government. I must also declare publicly that he has given me assurance that this will not occur in future.

This Government has been conducting its affairs in a manner which I am sure the whole nation will be proud of. We have nothing to hide, and where there have been genuine criticisms, we have always welcomed and accepted them with magnanimity. What is important however, is that reckless comments cannot be tolerated by this Government particularly when such comments are made without substantial facts or based on partial information.

Where the report affects the smooth and efficient running of Government, we have taken active step in the right direction. It is my hope that on future occasions, a closer degree of co-operation will be maintained, as is the practice, between the Director of Audit and his staff on one side, and the accounting officers on the other. This will help to avoid misunderstanding.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the Report on the Table.

House of Representatives Debates

2065

[Denial of Allegation

9 APRIL 1964

[Answer to Oral Questions]

2066

*The Member for Lagos Central (Mr L. J. Dosunmu) rose—*

**Mr Speaker :** Ministerial Statements are not subject to discussion. We do hope that the Public Accounts Committee will kindly invite the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) to air his views as much as he can.

DENIAL OF ALLEGATION

**The Minister of Finance :** In the absence of my hon. Friend, the Minister of Commerce and Industry (*Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima*), I wish to correct some erroneous statements made by the Member for Okigwi North East (*Mr F. U. Ihe*) in this House on 23rd March.

Speaking during the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, the hon. Member alleged that Messrs Nigerian Breweries Limited refuse to buy bottles from the Nigerian Glass Company Limited, of Port Harcourt, and that they import bottles at 11d each, when bottles cost 4½d each at the Port Harcourt Glass factory.

The hon. Member went on to suggest that this supposed refusal to buy the Nigerian-made bottles was due to discrimination against Eastern Nigeria.

This, Sir, is a grave and damaging charge, and I am therefore, happy to be able to assure the House that I have it on the authority of the General Manager of the Glass Company—himself a well-known Nigerian businessman—that the hon. Member's allegations are completely untrue.

The facts are that between September 1963 and March 1964, the Nigerian Glass Company Limited produced 5,609,651 bottles. Of these 4,188,620 were bought by Nigerian Breweries Limited, 1,207,392 were bought by the Independence Brewery of Umuahia, and 213,639 remained in stock at the end of the period.

Last month alone, the Nigerian Breweries bought 1,070,796 bottles, whereas the Independence Brewery bought no more than 78,372.

In addition, the Nigerian Glass Company Limited has a signed order for the supply of twelve million bottles to Nigerian Breweries

Limited within the trading year 1964-65. The General Manager of the Glass factory has, moreover, testified that without the patronage received from the Nigerian Breweries Limited, his company would have wound up.

I am sure that the hon. Member who made this statement would check on the points that I have made and he will be satisfied no doubt, that the Nigerian Glass Company Limited, whose director is a well-known nationalist and a great friend of mine, is in a position to defend himself. He has personally testified to me that he is satisfied with the patronage of the Nigerian Breweries Limited.

ANSWER TO ORAL QUESTIONS

**The Minister of Finance :** Sir, you will recall that on Thursday 2nd April, the Member for Benin East (*Chief D. N. Oronsaye*) raised a point of order at Question time in which he sought to know why answers to some Oral Questions which were on the *Order Paper* of Thursday 26th March, and which were either not reached before 10.30 a.m. or were not asked because the Members who were to ask them were not present in the House, have not been published in the Official Report of that day in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order.

Yesterday on the Motion for Adjournment, the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr P. U. Okeke*) also raised the same point of order in respect of some questions which were not answered on Wednesday the 1st of April. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to read section 14 (7) of the Standing Orders which governs Oral Questions not asked in the House.

*If a Member is not present to ask his question, or if the question is not reached before 10.30 a.m., the answer shall be printed in the Official Report, unless the Member shall have signified his wish to postpone his question before it was called or before 10.30 a.m. as the case may be.*

The Acting Clerk of the Parliaments has shown me a copy of a Circular Letter sent to all Permanent Secretaries on the 31st September, 1963, inviting their attention to the provision of this Standing Order and asking them to send not only copies of answers to Oral Questions but also those in respect of answers to Written Questions, to the Editor, Official Report.

[THE MINISTER OF FINANCE]

In the case of the point of order raised by Chief D. N. Oronsaye in particular, I have seen a copy of the letter addressed to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, asking him to send the answers to questions to the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments in order that those questions may be published in the Official Report of last Monday, 6th April. These answers have not been sent and there is a general complaint that many Ministries have not been sending in answers to oral questions as required by the Standing Order which I have just quoted.

I now have to make a personal appeal to my Colleagues to ensure that their Permanent Secretaries send in advance, answers to all oral questions to the Editor, Official Report on the morning of the day the questions are to be asked in Parliament.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### APPROPRIATION (1964-65) BILL

(SIXTH ALLOTTED DAY) : CONSIDERED IN

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES

HEAD 621—PRIMARY PRODUCTS

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

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, Six Hundred and Sixty-two Thousand, Five Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 621—Primary Products, be approved.

It is not my intention to make a long speech in moving the approval of the expenditure proposed under this Head. Nor do I intend to speak on every Head of the Capital Estimates. But it is necessary for me to explain to the House that the provision proposed in the Capital Estimates 1964-65 represents what we hope will be done during the year subject to the availability of the necessary resources.

As can be seen from the Summary of capital expenditure Heads at pages 2 and 3 of the draft

Estimates, the total capital expenditure proposed within the Federal Government's Development Programme amounts to some £62.9 million. But this is not the whole of the expenditure foreseen for 1964-65.

It is expected that when the accounts for the last financial year are closed, it will be found that there was substantial underspending during the year which will have to be carried forward. A glance at the statement of Development Fund for 1964-65 at page 54 of the draft Estimates will show that it is estimated that some £17 million will have to be revoted. Thus, the estimates before the House in fact envisage a total expenditure within the Federal Development Programme of some £79.9 million.

On the resources side, we expect to start the year with a Development Fund balance of a little under £400,000. This contrasts with a balance of nearly £14 million with which the Development Fund opened on 1st April, 1963. The significance of these figures is that during the past two years we have been spending on capital account at a greater rate than resources have become available. This has been possible because there was a substantial balance in the Development Fund when the present Development Programme began. This balance has now been run down and future resources must depend entirely upon our own efforts. To a great extent the amount of planned expenditure which it will actually be possible to carry out during the year will depend upon our success in securing substantial external finance.

With these few words, Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Mines and Power** (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule) : I beg to second.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East) : I rise to support the expenditure but with some reservations. From what the Minister has just told us, it is clear that every penny that is spent under this Head or any other Head is money hard earned.

The Development Programme is something we all depend upon very much for our progress. The dependence on the Development Programme is about sixty *per cent* on this Head

alone — Primary Products. If we succeed in the primary productions then the success will be one hundred *per cent* or at least ninety *per cent* at the end of the programme. That is why I want to say something about some of the Heads under which the money will be spent. One of them in Niger Delta Development Board.

A total of £256,000 is earmarked to be spent on this Head during the current year. I have made this point before, and at one time I thought that the point was being considered in some quarters. This Board seems to me to be absolutely irrelevant to the development of Nigeria. The purpose of creating this Board was to cater for the minorities in the Creek Area. But these minorities were catered for in some other ways which make them fully cared for. This has been further exaggerated by the fact that a good deal of this area belongs to the Mid-Western Region. The Mid-Western Region—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour** (Mr N. A. Ezonbodor) : On a point of order, much as I respect the Member for Benin East (*Chief Oronsaye*), it appears that he does not know the reason why this Board was set up for the minority people. He is not in a position to say something about the Board. He should speak on an item other than that.

**Chief Oronsaye** : I think the Member for Western Ijaw (*Mr Ezonbodor*) should have studied the Budget before he got up to raise a point of order which, of course, was a point of disorder.

I still maintain that the Niger Delta Development Board should not exist. It should be disbanded. It is a child of politics. Every penny spent there is an unnecessary duplication.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South) : On a point of order, the Member for Benin East (*Chief Oronsaye*) is misleading the House. Of course, he has not developed his argument, but he seems to be highly biased.

**Chief Oronsaye** : If any Government money is going to be spent, I am here and I am fully entitled to say something about its expenditure. As I said, the area covered by this Board is already covered by another

Government in the Federation. It is unnecessary spoon-feeding.

Another Sub-Head that requires—

**Mr Ezonbodor** : This is a wicked statement on the Niger Delta Development Board.

**Chief Oronsaye** : I do not know the stand of the Member for Western Ijaw (*Mr Ezonbodor*). But if he is defending the Niger Delta Development Board, he should get up to tell us the reason for the existence of this Board. It is not just enough to get up and say that it is a wicked statement on the Board. I am saying that, economically, it is a waste. I am an economist, and I am in a position to say so.

**Mr Ezonbodor** : If the Member for Benin East (*Chief Oronsaye*) wants to know why this Board was set up, I think I would be in a position to tell him. The fact is this : it was deemed that the people of the Niger Delta Area were backward and that a certain concession was given for some period to develop the area so that the people in the area can go *pari passu* with the other tribes.

**The Chairman** : Order. I think you better leave this controversy to the Mid-Western Regional Government.

**Chief Oronsaye** : I am happy that everybody sees the point that I am making except the Member for Western Ijaw.

There is an expenditure of £50,000 on Special Economic Research Studies. The point I want to make here is this. The sum of £50,000 is a good deal of money. But strange enough, all these researches that are being conducted, there is nothing so far being conducted on the research for rubber. Rubber research is a great *desideratum* because there is a great demand for improvement of rubber production in this country. In Malay Peninsula where rubber is being produced in great quantities, they have now a lot of developed processes which reduce our own system this way to nothing. So, it will be necessary to develop rubber research in the Mid-West especially because that is the home of rubber. The attempt by some people to plant rubber in part of the Western Region is just unnecessary huge waste of public funds. It is rubber research that should have this £50,000.

Another point that requires attention is the £52,000 to be spent on soil fertility and food

[CHIEF ORONSAYE]

crop Research Station at Umudike, and on rice Research Station at Pategi.

Buildings are to be put up for Research Sub-stations to the tune of £24,800 and £24,200. These are huge amounts. There is one point which I have been making from time to time as regards this Agricultural Research. So far there is not a single example of any of the stations established by the people doing these researches that can pay itself. That is why I fully agree with the point made by the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) a few days ago, when he said that the best thing to do in all these things would be to provide money and invite some companies to give some examples in order to make a success of these researches.

When such companies are invited and they make a success of agriculture, such as soil fertility, our people will be benefited. Our people have used up all the agricultural land; they are now encroaching on the reserves. Up till now, there is nothing coming forward from the researches which will demonstrate soil fertility.

Another point is about Fisheries. We have in the Estimates the sum of £10,000 for Salt Water Fish Pond, £25,000 for Fisheries Stations, and £30,000 for Sea-going Research Vessel. There was a point I made a few days ago and I still stand by it, that Nigeria's territorial waters should be clearly defined. Indeed this country is not in argument with any other country and it is easy for Nigeria to declare that Nigeria's territorial waters should be fifteen miles. Unless that is done, it will not be possible to have projects which are directed towards certain areas.

I observe that £20,000, £48,500, £5,000 and £18,000 are all to be spent in respect of Forestry Research. One point which strikes me very strongly is this. We make all these forestry researches but we do not know what will happen to the trees and the animals in these forests. One of the ways by which we can protect some of the animals in these forests is by having national parks. Unfortunately, those concerned have not thought this a wise procedure at all. But in Africa and in some other parts of the world where these national parks exist, they know the advantages of having national parks.

I do not intend to take much time on this because, if I were to speak out what is in my mind about this Head, I would speak from now till tomorrow.

I beg to support.

**Mr S. O. Kolade** (Oyo South): I only like to speak on one item and that is Forestry Research section.

I notice these days that there is a lot of disafforestation going on and the Government has done nothing about it, especially the burning of bushes, *et cetera*, which we find even around Lagos. Immediately one leaves Agege and one is coming to Lagos, one still sees the sign of bushes burnt here and there. This is very bad. By doing that most of the valuable products are being wasted; to be precise, fertility is being wasted. There should be laws and regulations against that.

We have voted a lot of money under this Head. I am surprised that no money is voted for planting trees in order to replace the burnt ones. This is called afforestation. If we continue to burn our bushes year in year out, a time will come when we shall have to miss most of our vegetation. If we continue to burn our bushes also, so many animals and some other things will be destroyed. We shall be losing valuable animals by so doing.

I notice that we have got some laboratories in the Savanah area. I come from the Savanah area, and nothing has been built in our own area. Oyo is the beginning of the Savanah. Immediately one leaves Ibadan, one reaches the Savanah area of Nigeria. We have not got any of these buildings at all. I do not know where the Government is building all these laboratories because, if laboratories should be built at all, they should be built in the areas where the real type of vegetation exists. The Government needs to extend these buildings to the Savanah areas of Nigeria. There people will be able to see what work the laboratories are doing and, at the same time, the result of the research will be used by the inhabitants of the area. The farmers there will be in contact with the laboratories and they will gain a great deal because if you carry out a research and the research proves unsuccessful, it is just a waste. We have voted £48,500 for these laboratories.

House of Representatives Debates

2073

[Appropriation (1964-65)

9 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

2074

Lastly, on this forestry research, I think it is high time we made research into our herbs. Most of the drugs we import from overseas are made from leaves, trees and so on. We have got a lot of them in Nigeria and nothing is being done in experimenting with our own herbs. The time has now come when these laboratories should produce some tablets which will be useful in curing some of our diseases. By that we shall curtail our expenditure overseas and keep money in Nigeria. I would like the Ministry of Economic Development to think about some of these things which will bring prosperity to us.

I beg to support.

**Mr N. E. Elenwa** (Ahoada West) : In supporting this Head, I have two important observations to make.

Firstly, I would like to speak on Sub-head 261—Natural Resources Field Projects : loans and grants for expansion of Regional projects. My contention here is that the sum of one million pounds provided under this Sub-head for 1964-65 is not adequate taking into consideration the fact that we have four Regions now. For such a wide subject like agriculture, that amount is inadequate. For instance, in Eastern Region, everybody knows that we are all out for agriculture. It will be wiser if more money is voted for this Head so that after sharing this money among the four Regions, we shall still have something substantial to go round and manage the projects.

Another point that I have here is in connection with Sub-head 61—Niger Delta Development Board. It is the opinion of my people from Ahoada Division that they should be joined to this Niger Delta Development Board.

It will be recalled that during the Minorities Commission the people from my area submitted a memorandum to it and supported the creation of this Niger Delta Development Board. When the report of the Minorities Commission was published, Ahoada Division was partly excised, either due to some politicians who had vested interests or to any other thing. It is the wish of my people now that they should be part and parcel of the Niger Delta Development Board.

It will be recalled also—

**Mr E. C. Akwiwu** (Orlu South East) : On a point of order, for purposes of correct recording, I think during the Minorities Commission the people of Ahoada gave evidence as to their own claims and objections to the Inquiry. I think the findings of the Minorities Commission were based on the evidence given by the Ahoada people themselves. I do not think that any politician went behind to excise them or to do anything that was not supported by evidence. If the Member for Ahoada West (*Mr Elenwa*) wants Ahoada to benefit from the administration of the Niger Delta Development Board, is a different matter. It could be on technical grounds, but not to say that somebody overruled the wishes or the desire of Ahoada people.

**Mr Elenwa** : The information given by the Member for Orlu South (*Mr Akwiwu*) is totally wrong. I do not know how to term it so as not to annoy him. They were going round Ahoada telling the people not to go to the minority area.

**Mr Akwiwu** : The records of proceedings are in existence. They are Government documents and are available, both the evidence and the report made. The Member for Ahoada West (*Mr Elenwa*) was not at home then.

**Mr Elenwa** : It will be recalled that I was one of the people who gave evidence. I gave evidence in favour of Ahoada joining minority area. When one recalls how much progress has been made in these special areas, one would really know that Ahoada is being left behind. For instance, Ijaw, Brass, Degema, Ogoni, *et cetera*, are now enjoying exclusive university and secondary scholarships. Normally they should not have enjoyed these benefits. If Ahoada is included in the minority area, I think with the Ogoni people and the rest of the people, we can equally enjoy what these people in the Niger Delta Board Area are enjoying.

**Mr Akwiwu** : On a point of order, Ahoada is more popular than the entire minority area put together.

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (Ibarapa) : I notice a lot of money is going to be spent on research. In this case the Federal Government is concerned with only research in connection with

[MR GBOLAGUNTE]

forestry. I want to suggest that the Constitution be amended to the effect that Forestry becomes a Federal Government responsibility. My reason is this. Many of our forests are being exploited indiscriminately with the effect that within the next ten years, we shall not have any tree to the girth of about two feet existing in my own area. Most of the reserves that we have in the Western Region have been allocated to contractors on contract basis. These contractors pay something up to £1,000 *per* square mile. Unfortunately, the money does not go into the Government pocket. The money goes into the coffers of a certain political party. Let me tell the hon. Member who wants to know the name of the political party that it is the N.N.D.P. If we allow these forests to be indiscriminately exploited, I am sure that we shall not have forests to research on. In Kenya the Government preserves the forests and the fauna. They also preserve animals so well that everybody goes there to see these animals. In Nigeria if Forestry is not made a Federal Government matter, I am sure there will be nothing left for us to research upon within the next twenty years. I am therefore suggesting that the Constitution be amended to make Forestry a Federal Government concern. We all should help to preserve our forests.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South) : I just wish to make a little comment on the Niger Delta Development Board. The people of Asa and Ndoki in Aba Division are listed as part of the minority areas in the Eastern Region. In fact our two clans are really in the minority throughout the whole of the Eastern Region. We have made representations to the Regional Government that we want to be treated like other minority areas in the Eastern Region. This Board was created for the benefit of minority areas. There is no reason whatever to exclude Asa and Ndoki from enjoying the privileges of this Board.

Though it may mean changing the Constitution, I intend to bring a Motion to the Floor of this House asking Members to sympathise with the minority areas of Asa and Ndoki. This will enable these people to enjoy the benefit of this Development Board. In our own Division we are not enjoying the benefit

of the majority of which we are supposed to form a part. This is a very important matter. I know that many people have been very eagerly trying to read politics into this demand. We are not interested in forming any *staté*. We are happy where we are in the Eastern Region. What we are interested in is the economic benefit that we will get from this Niger Development Board. Our people are in the minority area and they should be given this privilege of enjoying the benefits with the minority area. I am indeed using this privilege to appeal to hon. Members to bear in mind that in the very near future I am going to bring a Motion on the Floor of this honourable House to ask all the Members to support me so that the people of Asa and Ndoki may be included in the Niger Delta Board.

I beg to support.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : I would like to comment briefly on this question of Niger Development Board. Personally, I have no objection at all to another Board being set up to develop places that are not developed. But the point is this, the Niger Delta Development Board is supposed to develop the Niger Delta Area. These areas are Brass, Ijaw, *et cetera*, where if one is trying to go from Port Harcourt it will take one from eight to fourteen days to get there. One can appreciate their natural handicap. Naturally, people tend to follow the land. Even students from these areas, when they are trained on scholarship and asked to go and work in their own area, choose to remain on land. One can appreciate the need and the necessity of giving these areas some special consideration. But while giving them special consideration why must they be quartered in Port Harcourt to help develop further a place that is already being developed by international forces? The buildings of the Niger Delta Development Board at Port Harcourt would be a far greater asset if they had been put up at Oloibiri, Brass or Ijaw or in any such place supposed to be under development. They will see more of what they are supposed to develop if they are located there. The Port Harcourt community is not hostile to them, but it is illogical to locate their buildings there.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South) : On a point of order, it appears that the hon. Gentleman does not remember that Ogoni Division is also



in the Niger Delta area, and that Ogoni is in the mainland. If these buildings are put up where he is suggesting, how will Ogoni people get there?

**Mr Akwiwu :** I am quite sure that, left to the people of the Niger Delta themselves if it is a matter of choice, they would not concede the lion's share or the priority to Ogoni. Ogoni is a small section of the Niger Delta area, and their problem is not as critical as that of those in Oloibiri or some other place in the Niger Delta area. I am quite sure my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour, (*Mr Ezonbodor*) will agree with what I am saying.

The amount of money they wasted in buying luxurious American cars and lorries would have paid greater dividend if they had bought launches and improved river transport in the Niger Delta area. They are not developing Niger Delta land. It is the Niger Delta water area they are supposed to be developing. I think the sooner they start to think in terms of the water area, the better.

In fact, if, with the amount of money that is being given to them, they will provide better and more efficient river transport, improved communication systems, I think the whole place will be much better.

An unfortunate aspect of the operation is the amount of tribal discrimination with which they started. When the office was first opened, they opened without any staff. It was clear that they started off by saying that nobody other than a rivers man must come there for employment.

My argument is that since they are not staying on the river, and their offices are not built on the river, how can they confine employment to rivers men alone. That is most unfortunate.

After all, the purpose of the Board is to help the people in the Niger Delta area to reach a level where they could see things and be much better integrated into the Nigerian community. Why must we have a special privileged class of minority. Then it becomes a profitable privilege to declare oneself a minority. I think they should think again.

If it is meant that the Niger Delta Development Board must be for the rivers people,

administered by the rivers people, and must exist in the rivers area, why are English people sent to help them there since the English man is not a rivers man.

If the man from Ahoada Division does not qualify as a rivers man and the man who lives around Port Harcourt does not qualify as a rivers man, how can the man from England qualify as a rivers man? If the man from England is anything, he is a man of the ocean, and not a man of the rivers. I think this situation has been most unfortunate.

**Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) :** On a point of explanation, I wish to point out that the man who comes from England lives on an island since he comes from the British Isles. He is, therefore, a rivers man.

**Mr Akwiwu :** If this is the kind of geography my hon. Friend can teach—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (Mr N. A. Ezonbodor) :** On a point of information, I wish to say that the fact of the case is this : why the Niger Delta Board tries to employ people from the rivers is that the whole operation in the Niger Delta area is done in the rivers. If people from the mainland who do not know how to swim went there, their lives would be in danger. In order, therefore, to protect them, the Board employs people from the rivers. These are the people who can actually work in the rivers.

**Mr Akwiwu :** I am very grateful to my good Friend. If people from the mainland can go and teach people in the rivers, I do not see how it will be impossible for them to work in offices of the Niger Delta Board situated on the land. After all, these offices are not in the rivers. That is why we are saying that if they do not want anybody from the mainland to work for them, they should take their offices to the rivers, they should work for the rivers, and employ the rivers people. If this happens and anybody leaves the land to come and look for job in the rivers, they should not take him.

Any organ or body set up by the Federal Government and entrusted with the money belonging to everybody in this country, must not be so obviously discriminatory in its employment policy. It is not good setting up an office like that, in which any applicant is only confronted with the question of where he comes from before he can be employed.

(MR AKWIWU)

It is fast becoming a million pounds building. The sooner they look into how they use money in that place, the better. Otherwise, when the politics in it would have faded away, it would be seen that it has probably been one of the most extravagant and financially unjustifiable institutions set up by the Federal Government.

On the question of agricultural research, a lot has already been said to-day and at other times about this. I do sincerely feel that, with the number of years in which we have been doing research, the time has come for some team to go out into the field and teach the people to use the results of these researches.

Research never ends. From time to time, new things are discovered. If you go to the Eastern Region, you will find that the density of population is such that if the people there would have to exist, if they must get food to keep the population, the agricultural research stations there must now start teaching people the results of their researches. They could teach the people something about fertilisation, intensive agriculture, *et cetera*.

We see that the research station there is based at Umudike. That is very welcome, but the time has come for them to go out in a big way to teach the villagers how to grow bigger and better yams, *et cetera*, otherwise the situation can be described as a kind of disguised and elusive unemployment.

People labour from the beginning of the year to the end of the year only to get diminishing yields. I think the time has come for the research centres to really go out to show and teach people the results of their researches.

There is another important aspect of research which should be of great concern to the Government, and which relates to palm oil. Anyone who has a dealing with palm oil knows that the rate of rise in the free fatty acid content of palm oil is very rapid. Palm oil loses in its value as the free fatty acid content rises, and it rises in the process of time.

Therefore, the quantity of oil that may be tested to-day and classified as S.P.O.—Special Grade Palm Oil—if left on its own, in about ten days time, will quickly diminish to Grade III, and the difference in their earning capacity may be as much as thirty to forty pounds per ton. We count on our research centres to find out something that will preserve the free

fatty acid content of our palm oil and save it from quick deterioration. I think this is very important.

Finally, on the question of Mines and Power, which is also included here, reference is made to oil companies. I would like to say that the Government should be on the look out in this field.

Oil companies can make a great difference to the economy of the nation. It is believed that the first set of oil companies that came in here have gone a long way in providing new avenues of employment and in encouraging indigenous people to take part in what they do.

What we now see, however, is that the new oil companies coming in do not want to be of much benefit to the population of this country. They keep themselves to themselves, and try to deceive the nation into believing that they are merely a small organisation, when they could really come out in the way they have come out in other countries, invest as much money as possible, and encourage indigenous people to take up employment with them and take active business interest in what they are doing.

So far, they have only tried to keep themselves to themselves, by pretending to be operating in a small way, while in fact, they engage international contractors from overseas to come and handle a great part of their undertakings, instead of organising their activities in a scale that could be of maximum benefit to the nation and its populace. I think this is a matter which the Government should be careful of.

Merely collecting taxes and revenue from them are not enough. Our people want to learn new skills and new trades and, bearing in mind that unemployment is fast becoming a great problem in this country, I do not think that it is fair to make it impossible for these people to give us maximum benefits from their industries.

With these few remarks, I beg to second.

*Whereupon the Member for Gwarzo East (Alhaji Bello Dandago) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.*

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

*Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.*

House of Representatives Debates

2081

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

9 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

2082

*Resolved*, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, Six Hundred and Sixty-two Thousand, Five Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 621—Primary Products, be approved.

HEAD 622.—TRADE AND INDUSTRY

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

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Four Million, Six Hundred and Ten Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 622—Trade and Industry, be approved.

**The Minister of Transport** (Mr R. A. Njoku) : I beg to second.

**Mr B. O. Ikeh** (Izi South) : In supporting the Estimates under this Head, I would like to say that according to the Government Economic Programme 1962-68, the sum of money set aside for Iron and Steel Industry is, I think, about £30 million. Out of this amount the sum of £1 million has been earmarked to be spent during this year for this industry.

I do not know whether the Government is really very serious about the establishment of this industry in Nigeria. I remember that there are two important industries we have in mind and these two industries are to cost the Government much more money than any other scheme we have. These two industries are the Niger Dam Project and the Iron and Steel Industry.

I feel that the Government should concentrate on these two important projects. Even if we would have no money to finish our other industries or establishments, it is important that before the end of the Economic Programme period, we must have established these two projects. We must have finished the Niger Dam Project and established the Iron and Steel Industry.

Though I do not know how much has been spent—and I do not think any amount has really been spent—but in my opinion the money now being budgeted out of the total amount of £30 million to be spent for the establishment of these projects, is rather very

small. This makes it appear as if we are not very serious or that we are not pursuing this scheme very seriously.

It is said that iron and steel industry is the bedrock of all other industries in a nation. If we continue to treat this scheme so lightly it will mean that we are just setting the hands of the clock backwards as regards the industrialisation of this country.

I would like to refer to Sub-head 110 which deals with the establishment of a permanent trade fair site in Lagos. This is really very commendable but it is also very important for the Federal Government to select some sites in the Regions and see if other trade fair sites can be established there as well.

It is also very encouraging to learn that research is going to be conducted as regards other uses of coal. We have been crying in the past that the coal industry is failing and that a great amount is lost in this industry every year.

During the last financial year it was reported that the sum of £74,000 was lost by the Coal Corporation. I hope that if this research into other uses of coal is vigorously pursued the coal industry will be revived and it will come to play a very important part in the economy of this country.

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

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : I just want to touch upon one important item which the Member for Izi South (*Mr Ikeh*) has just commented upon and that is the establishment of the Iron and Steel Industry in this country. I can see that a total sum of £30 million has been earmarked for this industry and that about £1 million is going to be utilised this year.

I hope that this amount of £1 million will be spent in the setting up of the foundation or getting the contract awarded on this industry. But I want to sound a note of warning to the Government that in spending this £30 million, out of which £1 million is going to be spent this year, a lot of wisdom must be applied.

Government must give careful consideration to the award of contracts on this scheme. I know that the contracts on this type of job are going to be awarded to the most suitably qualified firms wherever these firms may be in

(MR ODULANA)

the whole world but only the best is good for us in this country. We do not want a "half-and-half" job.

We have regretted the award of many major contracts in this country simply because, when it is already too late, we discover that the people to whom these contracts have been awarded are not the type who can give us the best we want.

I know our Government is very careful and will be very careful to see that contracts on this project are awarded only to those firms, no matter from where they come, who can really give us value for our money. They should be firms who are internationally reputed for very good work on this type of industry.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : On a point of order, the Speaker should take his hand away from his eyes so that his eyes can catch the eyes of Members.

**The Chairman** : I do not know whether that point of order was directed at the Chairman or at the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*).

**Dr Okeke** : The point of order was directed to the Chairman.

**The Chairman** : I think it was most impertinent and rude.

**Mr Odulana** : Thank you, Mr Chairman. This is a very important matter because the sum of £30 million is no joke.

We have just heard about the £35 million contract on the Niger Dam Project awarded to a firm of contractors. This firm is highly reputed throughout the whole world. We are really satisfied with the award because this firm is established throughout the world, in places like Canada, Sudan, North America and many other places. This is the type of firm that should get the contract for the Iron and Steel Industry as well. The firm should be an internationally reputed one and not just one that has the money to carry out this project. We want people who can give us the best in this country.

I think that the Chairman will grant me another indulgence when we get to Head 224 when I shall talk, for the interests of all

Nigerians, about how these major contracts go into the hands of international contractors who then leave our own indigenous contractors aside and employ the services of other expatriate contractors. I hope that the Chairman will allow me to talk when we get to that Head.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : Mr Chairman, I would like to make some observations on this Head. The first point I would like to make concerns the Federal Loans Board Additional Capital. In this respect £100,000 has been allocated to the Federal Loans Board but I would like to know the conditions by which loans are given to the members of the Nigerian public, or to the industrialists.

It should also be noted that some of those who receive loans from the Federal Government do not refund them as required. Some of them usually make use of the loans they receive from the Federal Government for another purpose instead of directing these loans towards the objective for which the Federal Government gave them the loans.

Loans are given to indigenous industrialists in order that they may employ people and help them to make their living, but instead these loans are diverted to quite different purposes altogether.

I am of the opinion that the Government should investigate whether those who have received Government loans are making proper use of them or not. Some are not even repaying the loans according to the regulations under which the loans were granted to them.

I come to another very vital matter, that is the Nigerian Minting and Security Printing. We praise the efforts made by the Government in order to establish this important institution, but there is a discriminatory attitude in appointing the members who are serving in the board of that company. The Eastern Region is not represented. Lagos also is not represented. The Mid-West is there, the North is there and the West is represented. Why is the Eastern Region not represented? We demand the explanation of the Minister of Finance on this.

It is curious that in such an important institution where the money of the country will be minted and where other security matters will be printed a big and important region like the Eastern Nigeria is left out.

House of Representatives Debates

2085

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

9 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

2086

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos Central): I think the reason why the Eastern Region is not represented in the board of the new company is because a lot of counterfeiting is going on in the Eastern Region. I think that is why the Eastern Region is not represented.

**Mr Okoronkwo**: I am not after counterfeiting. We know those who are experts in making counterfeit money in Nigeria. They are the Ijebus. They have been indulging in this thing for long.

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** (Ijebu Central): It is wrong for the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) to refer to the Ijebus as those who indulge in counterfeiting money because the last discovery was made in the Eastern Region.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: I do not want the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) to mislead the House. There is, perhaps, a better Easterner on the board of the company than himself. Dr Abai from Bende Division of Eastern Nigeria is the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank, he is a Director of the Company and he is an "Easterner of Easterners."

**Mr Okoronkwo**: He is a Government employee representing the Government in the board. I am talking of the membership of the board representing the Eastern Government or the Eastern Region. The Minister of Finance is misleading the House. Dr Abai is an employee of the Central Bank and he is in the board in his capacity as an officer of the bank. He is not representing the Eastern Region.

What of the other Regions? Who is the Governor of the Central Bank? Is he not a Northerner and is another Northerner not in the board?

**Mr Odulana**: On a point of order, the hon. Member is saying that the Governor of the National Bank is a Northerner. The Governor of the National Bank is not a Northerner.

**Mr Okoronkwo**: I was not talking of the National Bank. I was referring to the Central Bank and I was saying that the Governor of the Central Bank is a Northerner and there is another Northerner in the board of the Security Printing and Minting Company.

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi** (Asaba West): On a point of order, this House should not be reduced to a tribal debating club.

**The Chairman**: I think there is a clear distinction between a Region and a tribe.

**Mr Okoronkwo**: I have made my points and I want the Minister of Finance to appoint an Easterner to represent the Eastern Region in the board of the Security Printing and Minting Company.

**Mr J. S. Tarka** (Jemgba): On a point of order, I wish to say that the Governor of the Central Bank is not a Northerner. He is a Nigerian.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: I would like at this stage to make a statement on this issue in order to show that at least we in this Government are very careful about what we do.

There are three financial institutions in which the Federal Government has an interest and I will mention them one by one. I will not mention any tribe represented there, but I will mention how the hierarchy is constituted in order that this House and the nation may know that what we are doing is the right thing.

The first one is the Central Bank. The Governor is from Northern Region, the Deputy Governor is from Eastern Region, the General Manager is from Western Region, the Secretary is a Mid-Westerner. Is that not a fair representation?

The second is the Security Printing and the Chairman that my hon. Friend was talking about is from the Northern Region, the first Director—Dr Abai—is from the Eastern Region. He is from Bende Division, Eastern Nigeria. He is a Director in his own right, appointed by the Central Bank and he is the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank.

What is more, the first official, the first highly paid official who is the Secretary of the Security Printing Corporation is my former Assistant Legal Adviser, Mr Okechukwu from the Eastern Region. He is the only employee there now. I recommended him and my hon. Friend should check up. I am not a tribalist.

Then we have one Director from the Mid-West. The only Director from the Mid-West is the one my hon. Friend could see with a jaundiced eye and say that he is an Itsekiri.

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

He is not an Itsekiri ; there is no Itsekiri Director on the board of the company. I hear somebody say that he is an Urhobo, he may be an Urhobo I cannot tell.

I now come to the Industrial Development Bank. My hon. Friend did not mention the Industrial Development Bank and I think this is because he knows what is happening there. I will save him the headache of mentioning it.

The three Directors of the Bank are Easterners. I can hear somebody mentioning Chief Awosika. Chief Awosika is a Director of the Security Printing and Chairman of the Marketing Company. He also represents the Western Region in the Industrial Development Bank.

I have to say, finally, that everything is distributed fairly in any Corporation in which I have anything to do or this Government has anything to do and this is even up to the senior appointments.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Four Million, Six Hundred and Ten Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65, under Head 622—Trade and Industry, be approved.

#### HEAD 623.—ELECTRICITY

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

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Nine Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65, under Head 623—Electricity, be approved.

**The Minister of Transport** : I beg to second.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : On a point of order, I wish to submit that if we would not have time to deliberate we might as well go home because the way Motions are rushed in this House borders on rubber-stamping. Are we here to deliberate on or to rubber-stamp these Motions ?

**The Chairman** : I think there is a great need for restraint and self-respect.

**Mr S. O. Kolade** (Oyo South) : I have to congratulate the Government on its plan for the Niger Dam Project. I think if electricity

is supplied from the Niger Dam, it will be cheaper and it will have to run to many villages in Nigeria. So many villages, towns and cities in Nigeria are eager to have electricity now and I know it is very costly, but if we can get the electricity supplied from the Niger Dam, it will be very cheap to run.

In my own constituency in Oyo area, there are so many towns and villages which wish to have electricity supplied to them, but at present, we realise it is very costly and that the Government is doing its best to supply electricity to as many villages as possible. Nigeria will be lucky when the project is completed. That will help us economically.

Some few weeks ago, it was put in the papers that Nigeria has lost about £10 million through constant power failure in Lagos. If we get this project well laid, it will be an advantage to Nigeria with reference to industrial plans. Our industries will develop and many towns and villages will have electricity supplied to them.

I hope that when the time comes the Government will not be partial in the way they distribute electricity to the villages. The Minister of Finance has just explained the way by which appointments are made wherever the Federal Government has a concern ; I think it is very commendable. I hope that when electricity is supplied from the River Niger, an arrangement will be made whereby villages and towns in the various Regions of Nigeria will be fairly considered so that all of us will live life more abundant.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central) : In contributing to this Head, I would like to say right away that the Niger Dam Project is a very welcome one. But I wish to warn the Government that what has happened in many other plans and projects should not happen in this particular one.

Very often we find that when we ask for amenities for the rural areas we are told that such and such are not in the project or not in the plan. When we ask for roads we are told that such and such roads are not in the Development Plan, and when we ask for industry we are told the same thing. Now, here is a plan we are trying to initiate—a plan for electricity for the country. I believe that when

House of Representatives Debates

2089

[Appropriation (1964-65)

9 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

2090

we are putting so much money into this Niger Dam Project—over £68 million—it is proposed that that should affect the whole country and not just the townships. So, I am appealing to the Minister to take time, right from the onset, to conduct a survey of the whole country, not of townships and not only of the areas where they want to establish industries, but also of the rural districts where light is as important as in the townships, so that when the project will be in full swing, there will be no part of this Federation left out. It should not be necessary to say then that such and such places are not in the Programme.

Whilst I am on that, I would like to point out very seriously that the Minister is fond of telling us that such and such a place is not economically viable for the installation of electricity or such things. I would like to remind him that very often we do not instal electricity in a place just because it can pay. Sometimes a commodity becomes in demand only when it is available, and electricity is one of those commodities. The people will only ask for electricity when it has been brought to them. They will not buy and they will not pay for it before you instal it. That is why I am very, very serious on the question of conducting a survey of the potentiality of the various areas, places that are thickly populated, like my own constituency in Nsukka. There are more than 25,000 people living within an area of three square miles. Such a rural district should certainly come as a priority area for the installation of electricity.

Although this is a single item, I have taken the liberty to talk on it because this is a planning period for this particular item. I feel that the Federal Government has very few avenues of reaching the man in the village. This is going to be one of them. Please when the Minister is making the plan, he should remember the rural areas.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. S. Tarka** (Jemgba) : I just want to have it on record that I have asked the Minister of Mines and Power to instal electricity for power consumption in Gboko. Gboko is the Divisional Headquarters for Tiv Division and it has a population of 2½ million. I see no reason why every province throughout the Republic should have electricity supplied to their main towns and Gboko has none. The

Minister had in the past told me, whenever I raised this matter with him in his office, that he was going to supply electricity to Gboko very quickly. Now we have got a new project under him. When this project is completed, I do hope that he will immediately take into consideration the demand that has been made to him since the life of the last Parliament, I mean the one of 1954-59. I wish, therefore, that he will take seriously into consideration this particular demand which is very important.

I wish to say with gratitude that I see that he has installed electricity for one of the towns in Benue Province, that is Oturkpo which is very near to Gboko. I hope that he will do the same thing for all the Divisional Headquarters in Benue Province.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi** (Afenmai East) : It is unfortunate, Mr Chairman, that people who have already got electricity behave very much like Oliver Twist — wanting more all the time. We in Afenmai Division, the second largest in population in the whole of the Mid-West, have no electricity. I am appealing to the Minister in charge to consider it fit to supply electricity to the people of Afenmai Division, particularly Auchi which is the Headquarter.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi** (Asaba West) : On a point of order, the Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi*) is deceiving the House by telling us that his Division is the second largest populated area in the Mid-West. His Division is not up to one-sixth of any of the small ones there. His Division is very, very small.

**The Chairman** : I think there may be a more effective forum for that dispute.

**Mr Obi** : The Member for Asaba West (*Mr Eboigbodi*) is a trader. He does not know geography.

**Chief R. A. Orok** (Abak North West) : I rise to thank the Minister of Mines and Power for all that he has been able to do. I am to inform the Government that the question of electricity is a matter that the Government should give priority to Anang Province, especially Ikot Ekpene which, in fact, has been promised electricity before this day. The

[CHIEF R. A. OROK]

Minister should supply electricity to Ikot Ekpene and to Abak, my own constituency, which is one of the important towns in Anang Province.

I appeal that the Government should immediately consider installing electricity there so that we may have industries and so as to encourage the people who are living there. We have very much paid attention to the people who are living in the townships, leaving the people in the rural areas who have contributed a lot to our development, financially and otherwise. If we fail to encourage them, it means that we are discouraging them from living in the rural areas and encouraging them to leave for the townships. If we allow that to happen, from where do we expect to have our foodstuffs and the rest of such other thing?

For example, if you go to the rural areas by this time it is women that you will see working in the farms while the people in the big towns are going about wearing long ties like the Minister of Finance, Chief Okotie-Eboh. Therefore, I appeal to the Government that it is high time that this Government gave serious consideration to the provision of electricity for the people in the rural areas.

I beg to support.

**Mr M. A. Ajasin** (Owo South): I just want to say that electricity charges should be made uniform throughout the country. At present what the people in Lagos pay is 2d per unit whereas in the provinces, it is 5d per unit, which is very exorbitant for the people in the provinces. It cannot be that the Federal Government wants to make the poor people poorer still by charging them this high rate.

In most places the Federal Government regard the supply of electricity as an amenity, which it should not be at all. Light should be a necessity for everybody. In these days we have schools all over the country in large numbers with students who have to make use of light in the night. If they have to use very poor light it will affect their eye sights. Perhaps the Federal Government is interested in building blind centres all over the place rather than providing light for the people! So it should not be regarded as an amenity any longer. Light is a necessity and the gift of sight is a necessity and not an amenity at all.

The Federal Government should see that this rate is reduced. As a matter of fact, the Minister of Mines and Power sometime last year promised that he would look into this matter and that he would see that this rate is reduced. But it has not been reduced.

There are some places in Ondo Province where equipments for electricity supply have been installed but they are not switched on. I want to mention places like Ikerre and Ikare in Ondo Province. The whole thing there have all been fixed but the light is not on for a long time now, perhaps for political reasons. We do not know whether it is due to the West Regional Government or to the Federal Government. We would like to know from the Minister why those places are not lighted, and he should let us know when they will be lighted.

I beg to support.

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh** (Abaja and Ngwo): About six years ago, the Minister of Mines and Power announced on the Floor of this House the names of towns in the Federation that were earmarked for the supply of electricity. In that announcement, even the town of Udi, my own constituency, was mentioned, but surprisingly enough, up to this moment of my speaking, most of those towns which were earmarked for the supply of electricity have not had the fortune of getting it. I would like the Minister to make a statement on the Floor of this House stating why those towns which were announced in 1959 have not been able to get electricity supply.

It is impossible for small cottage industries to be established in the rural areas without electricity supply. As such, one would have expected that the Minister of Mines and Power would use his influence to ensure that the various expanding townships in all the areas of the Federation are given electricity supply.

Secondly, we find in the electricity tariff rate that the very small towns are normally charged higher rates. For instance, some towns are charged 5d per unit and in some areas it is 3d while it is 2d in some other areas. I would like the Minister to have a standard rate throughout the Federation. If the postage system in this country is the same, there is no reason why electricity charges should not be the same.



*House of Representatives Debates*

2093

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

9 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

2094

The areas that are actually consuming more electricity should subsidise the areas in which we have very few people who are living there.

After all, the Electricity Corporation is an arm of this Government and electricity should not be a luxury. It is a necessity and, as such, it should be made in such a way that every area in this country should have it at the same price.

I beg to support.

**Chief Okunowo (Ijebu Central)**: If the means and importance of light is so recognized by God Almighty that He ordered: "Let there be light and there was light", I think our Minister of Mines and Power should not deprive any hamlet or village in this country of light.

**The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule)**: Mr Chairman, with the greatest respect, God said, "Let there be light and there was light", but Maitama cannot say "Let there be light" and there will be light!

**Chief Okunowo**: A few days ago when we were debating the Head on the Ministry of Economic Development, the only excuse that the Minister of Economic Development was able to advance about the difficulty in the siting of industries in this country was the question of lack of electricity supply. As we have now come to the Head of Electricity, I think I should seize this opportunity to lay emphasis on it, that the Minister of Mines and Power should ensure that there is electricity everywhere because, in distributing industries consideration is always given to where electricity supply is available.

We are lucky that our country is one flowing with milk and honey. If this is so, how do we tap some of these resources if there is no electricity all over the country? Although I am not comparing our Minister of Mines and Power with God Almighty, I am saying that to-day, by the Grace of God, he is the one entrusted with the responsibility of supplying the country with electricity. I am supporting this Head because I do not want to put any spoke into his wheel, but I would like him to see that everywhere is supplied with electricity because the need for light is such that God Almighty, as I said before, said that there should be light and there was light.

**Mr J. K. de-Omomadia (Urhobo East)**: Electricity, like communications and roads, I think, should reach every nook and corner of this country. In most rural areas we have private plants being used for running secondary schools and hospitals, teacher training colleges, maternity hospitals and other private industries. If the supply of electricity were extended to these areas, I think the Government would be collecting some substantial fees from the users of electricity in those areas.

The reason the Minister always gives is that the Regional Governments must recommend the supply of electricity to a particular town that requires it. I think the Government should take up a policy whereby it will be compulsory for the Government to supply electricity to every rural area, notwithstanding the fact that recommendation is required from the Regional Government.

On the question of rates, I think it is necessary to make the rates of electricity uniform in all the areas where electricity is supplied. For instance, all over the country we have the same rate for postage and the same rate for telegrams and the same rate for so many other things. I see no reason why we should have different rates of electricity in the different parts of the country where electricity is supplied.

Before I wind up, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Mines and Power to the fact that people in my Division, Isoko, want electricity supplied to them, and I feel that in the new scheme of things rural areas should be made to take priority.

**The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule)**: I am extremely grateful to hon. Members who have contributed to this particular Head, and I am more than grateful to those hon. Members who made mention of the question of electricity in respect of unit charge. This is important as regards industrialisation. It would be wrong of me not to admit that electricity is very important indeed. In fact, it is the essential ingredient to industrialisation. But we can only do with what we have. We have got limited funds available and we can only do as much as we have power to do, and no more.

**Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South)**: On a point of order, it appears to me that the Minister of Mines and Power is not serious with this

[MR EMEME]

matter. Most of the countries which are advanced to-day have actually concentrated on electricity, and if funds are not—

**Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule :** What I would like to say is that when—

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West) :** On a point of order, each time we ask for electricity to be supplied in the rural areas the Minister of Mines and Power tells us that funds are not available. I want to ask him what he has done with all the money made available to his Ministry by the Federal Government? In my constituency in Ishan Division—

**Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule :** With the greatest respect, I want to say that not all villages and hamlets which ask for electricity supply can get it. That is not possible. In one breath the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) asked for the supply of electricity, and in another breath he is contradicting himself by saying that we do not permit people to instal private plants. If the Member for Aba South will be patient enough, I will explain the circumstances in which we supply electricity to the areas which get it.

Hon. Members will agree that in order that any industry might grow, there must be a constant supply of electricity. The reason why we supplied electricity to these areas is this: it is not possible for me to supply electricity to all nooks and corners of Nigeria. What we do is that we supply electricity to those areas where industries will be attracted because if electricity is not supplied to those places where industries are sited, it is just too bad. The intention of the Federal Government is that in the long run electricity will be supplied to every nook and corner in the country. Members will agree with me when I say that—

**Chief E. O. Okonowo (Ijebu Central) :** On a point of order, the Minister of Mines and Power has just said that his Ministry is handicapped in that funds are not available. Why does his Ministry not allow Local Authorities and private individuals who can afford to instal plants to do so?

**Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule :** Some Local Authorities did it before and even some industrialists did it but they discovered that they

were running at a loss and in the end they had to resort to the E.C.N.

I want Members to be realistic about these things. What we cannot allow is that when we have installed electricity, we cannot allow Local Authorities and private people to compete side by side with the E.C.N. That is why we have had occasion to refuse private individuals from installing private plants.

There are certain places where industries have already been sited and where we have been compelled to supply with electricity. The supply of electricity cannot be carried out at one go. After all, Rome was not built in one day. These things have got to be carried out gradually, and they can only be carried out when funds become available.

I do realise that the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) wants electricity supplied to his people because an election is imminent. I can understand his anxiety, but I must say that—

**Mr Ememe :** On a point of order, I think the Minister of Mines and Power knows very well that Afam which supplies gas to certain parts of the East is in my constituency, and there is no reason why electricity should not be supplied to the people who have contributed in no small measure to the progress of the country. I do not see the reason for this injustice as I do not know what to tell my people if they ask why electricity is not supplied to them.

**Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule :** I can understand the anxiety of my hon. Friend over this, but it is just one of those things. A small village, a small town, very prosperous and contributing so much to—

**Mr Ememe :** I take exception to the Minister calling my constituency a small village.

**The Chairman :** Order. I am sure every Member has a copy of the Order Paper. I am appealing to Members that they should kindly look through the Order Paper they have and choose what Motions they are going to speak upon. We still have about eighteen Motions to dispose of and I am appealing to Members to restrict their points of order to the barest minimum.

**Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule :** It is for this reason, Mr Chairman, that we informed the Regional Governments whenever possible to lend their Local Authorities some money, interest free, in order that we may be able to supply electricity to areas where industries are sited and to reimburse these Regional Governments when funds become available. These undertakings are therefore called minute undertakings. If, therefore, the Regional Governments lend us money, I think it is the common saying that he who pays the piper dictates the tune. They tell us the names of the towns that they would like us to electrify. We carry out a survey and if we are satisfied that they are good we supply electricity to these areas. This is the procedure for the time being. I do hope that the time will soon come when Government will have enough money so that the E.C.N. itself will be able to carry out its own investigation and supply electricity from its own funds without necessarily referring to the Regional Governments. But this may take time.

Members have made mention of electricity charges. This is very interesting. I must admit that electricity charges are, according to Members and according to the information I have got from some experts, fairly high and the rates of electricity changes from place to place. It will be noticed that in areas where there are very many industries the unit charge is very low. The reason is obvious. Where the consumption is high the rate is lower because more electricity is sold in that area and we can afford to sell the electricity at a lower cost. We would not be able to do so where the consumption of electricity is not so high.

There is also the cost of transportation. We transport coal, say to Maiduguri or Kano. This cost is added to the cost of maintenance and it is from this that we calculate the rate that we will charge the consumers, both domestic and industrial. That is why the unit charge in the provinces, where we have to carry the coal and other things all the way, is much higher than it is here in Lagos where we do not have to pay so much for transportation.

What we are doing in respect of industries in order to encourage them to grow is this. Wherever a new industry is to be sited we always encourage the industrialist to go into

negotiation with the E.C.N. in order to get what we call concession tariff. This concession tariff is given specially to the industries so as to enable them to grow. This is because we realise that the cost is so high and we feel that they should be given some concession. Negotiation, therefore, is only carried between the industrialist and the E.C.N. They come to a sort of concessionary tariff which is charged to the new industry.

We hope, however, that when the Niger Dam goes into operation much of our difficulties will have been non-existent. The Niger Dam project is another example of one of those Government projects which brings the whole country together. The Dam is sited in Northern Nigeria. It is a multi-purpose Dam, but it is essentially an electricity Dam. It is going to generate a lot of electricity, most of which will go, not to the Northern Region but to the East and the West. But the North will benefit from it in other aspects. So, if I may digress a little, that is one of those things why we say that Nigeria is an economic entity and must be treated as such.

This Dam is going to serve the whole of the Federation. Most of the electricity is going to the other Regions but the Northern Region is going to benefit a great deal. Not only that, the Northern Region is going to benefit from other aspects of the project. I do hope that when this scheme comes into operation we will be able to have enough electricity so that there will be no complaint from the industrialist and the domestic consumer.

Let me take this opportunity to mention something about this £10 million project that has been so much talked of, both in this House and outside. The rate of growth of industries in Lagos area has far exceeded our estimation in recent years. It has multiplied about three times quite recently. It is unfortunate that we do not know sometimes when and where new industries will be sited. It is only after all negotiations have been completed that the Electricity Corporation is let into the picture. The result is that we do not make provision for such an industry coming into existence. That is why often we find ourselves confronted with the demand for electricity which we have not got ready or available.

[ALHAJI YUSUFF MAITAMA SULE]

In this particular case, no mention of this project was made to the E.C.N. in the initial stage. We were merely informed that some people, not official, gave certain information to certain people who came to make or conduct certain inquiries without the knowledge of the management of the E.C.N. If we had known something about this, provision would have been made. In fact, I would be the last man to see that a project where ten million pounds would be lost because of power failure, or because we would not be able to supply the electricity. We did not know anything about it until afterwards.

I do hope that intending industrialists in future will inform, not only the Ministries of Commerce and Industry and Finance, as is rightly the case and should always continue to, but also the Electricity Corporation so that they may know whether or not there is electricity for them before ever they start.

I would like hon. Members please to bear with me and to give us a chance. I can assure them that when, and if, we have the money no part of Nigeria will be left out. Every nook and corner will get electricity supply.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Nine Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 623—Electricity, be approved.

#### 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 Twelve Million, Eight Hundred and Eighty-Five Thousand, Four Hundred and Forty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 624—Land Transport System, be approved.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): This very important item must not go unchallenged, unmentioned and unexplained. Head 624, Capital Expenditure, dealing with land transport system is an important one which every one of us must take notice of. Let us look at it from this angle.

This Head contains a lot of contracts that will be awarded not to Nigerians but to the expatriates. What are Nigerians going to get from it?

What I am going to explain is the role of major contractors from overseas as compared with indigenous contractors when major contracts are being awarded. I know that when these major contracts are being awarded the only consolation that goes to the indigenous contractors is that we have not got the money; we have not got the technical know how. But where the indigenous contractors have not got the money and the technical know how, what happens to the minor contracts that still go into the hands of the Syrians, the Asiatics and the expatriates generally?

We must not take this to mean the case of Cyclopes and Ulysses. Cyclopes was the one-eyed giant who was murdered by Ulysses. When Cyclopes cried in pain that "Mr No Man", which was the appellation of Ulysses was murdering him, his companions—(*Interruptions*).

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi** (Asaba West): On a point of order, we are not here for tales and unnecessary stories. Let him tell the House what he wants, because he is wasting our time.

**Mr Odulana**: He said Mr No Man was not murdering him, and they told him that if Mr No Man was not murdering him there was nothing they could do. We do not want such a thing to happen to Nigeria.

When major contracts go to major contractors, no doubt, a lot of sub-contracts are attached for small contractors to carry out. But may we ask ourselves one question? To what extent do indigenous contractors who are less fortunate to win major contracts get minor contracts attached to those major contracts? The answer is that not only are they unfortunate to get these sub-contracts but they are also being discriminated against by those major contractors in favour of their own expatriate sub-contractors.

Let us take the case of the land transport system in this country, one would find that indigenous transporters are being gradually squeezed out by Syrian transporters. Transport contracts go to expatriate transporters such as the Armels Transport where the so-called major contractors have to give out such

contracts. There is no doubt that at any time in this country the indigenous transporters cannot compete favourably with these expatriate transporters. They own very many lorries which have been in operation for five, or six, or seven, or eight, or ten years. They have paid the capital back.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South) : On a point of order, the speech of the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) is irrelevant. It is not relevant, because the Head we are on now deals with the Land Transport System ; and this is mainly on roads. It has nothing to do with transporters.

**The Chairman** : Order ! I think the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) is coming closer within the scope of relevancy, because he is talking in terms of land transport which is what the Head deals with.

**Mr Odulana** : What I was explaining was that when these major contractors called in sub-contractors they issued contracts to their expatriate transporters who had big lorries and trailers, and who could charge only about £2-10s-0d per trip for vehicles that are old as five, or six, or seven, or eight, or ten years. In the case of indigenous transporters they have not more than ten lorries, and have about £8,000 still to pay to U.A.C., or S.C.O.A. or one of the firms selling vehicles. Therefore, when they charge £3-10s-0d for a trip they are being edged out, because anybody requiring such services would prefer to pay the expatriate's lower charge of £2-10s-0d and reject the indigenous transporter's higher charge of £3-10s-0d. In fact, in almost every case the Nigerian transporters are shown the way out.

I have just heard the Minister of Finance asking me who has shown Nigerian transporters the way out. May I say that the Nigerian Transporters were sent out by expatriate transporters. I would also say that the Minister of Finance is supporting all these expatriate transporters because of his vested interest. He has shares in the Armels Transport and Khalil Transport, but Khalil Transport is a menace to this country. What is Khalil Transport doing for us in this country ? Let the Khalil Transport pack away. I am talking seriously.

**Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh** : On a point of order, the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) cannot under the cover of the privileges of this House attack his business competitors.

Somebody has just interjected to say that the Member for Ijebu South is not a transporter, but may I say that he has hands in everything. No one knows how many interests he has got.

**The Chairman** : Order ! I think while we might talk objectively I do not think we ought to discuss critically personalities who are not here.

**Mr Odulana** : I went into personalities because the Minister of Finance forced it out of my mouth. I referred to expatriate transporters and Syrian transporters without going into personalities. Those are the things I said. But when the Minister of Finance wanted to know them I had no alternative than to mention their names.

Now, I heard the Minister of Finance putting it across to me that I did mention Armels Transport. But may I say that at the time I mentioned Armels Transport I also mentioned Khalil Transport.

Yet the Minister of Finance has interrupted again by mentioning Hassan Transport, but may I point out that Hassan Transport are not only transporters but also builders. How can such a thing be done ?

If these expatriate contractors win major contracts they must give the minor contracts to others. Those major contractors should not go overseas to bring sub-contractors here.

If we are to live in this our God-given land and country I think the Government must make a bold stand. The Minister of Economic Development knows very well what I am trying to say, and he has once said on the Floor of this House that these so-called expatriate transporters must give way to indigenous transporters. So, when contracts to the tune of £35½ million for the Niger Dam is being given to an expatriate firm, which we approved, what would be the lot of Nigerian contractors who could not win such a major contract ? There is no reason why we must not be given the chance to get something for our local

[MR ODULANA]

transporters. Our own indigenous contractors must get all the minor contracts in whatever shape or form. That the expatriate contractors should again bring their heavy lorries and tractors to do work which we can do, that we must not allow.

Those things are what we are saying, and the Minister of Finance who is the Leader of this House and a powerful man in the Federal Cabinet should be serious about all these. Therefore, I am asking the Minister of Finance to take it to the Government that all contracts awarded to these major contractors must have all minor contracts awarded to Nigerian sub-contractors. There are Nigerians who can do all the minor contracts. There is no need to award them to expatriate contractors.

We complained about not having money in this country, and despite the fact that there are people in the Eastern Region who deal mainly in transport, Nigerian transporters are not called upon to take part. Even when Nigerian transporters are called in those expatriate transporters offer less charge per trip, and Nigerians are squeezed out. Why should Nigerian transporters be squeezed out? These expatriate transporters need not dabble into this kind of trade. They should leave it entirely to us.

I have heard the Minister of Finance referring to me as not being a good businessman. May I point out to him that in the scope of business he is not better than I am. The Minister even asked me about the scope of counterfeiting. May I say that my people have ceased to put their money into circulation. So, they have left the counterfeiting of coins to the Ijaws and the Urhobos.

I am very serious on this matter. All minor jobs contained in major contracts which Nigerian contractors can do should not be given to expatriate contractors. Now that I have heard somebody saying that I am repeating myself I want to make him realise that I would repeat myself as much as I can until my advice is heeded by Government.

I do not want to mention the Nigerian transporters in the West, East, North and Mid-West. We should not have them thrown out of their jobs in this Six-Year Development Programme which amounted to several millions

of pounds. The Government should take a very serious view of these sub-contracts that are engendered by major contracts. If the Government does not do that I do not know what the fate of Nigeria shall be. If one goes to U.A.C., or S.C.O.A., or anywhere one would find that lorries which are—

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East) : On a point of order, the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) is repeating himself, and by so doing he is wasting our time. If he has nothing to say he should sit down, because others have something more important to say.

**The Chairman** : Order ! The Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) will probably realise that he is keeping a bit too long and perhaps repeating a few points again and again.

**Mr Odulana** : I would suggest that those Westerners, Northerners, Easterners and Mid-Westerners who are transport owners should be taken into confidence.

The Minister of Finance has just asked in a whisper if I would not mention the people of Lagos. In that regard I would say that Lagos is in the West.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman is misleading this House. The Constitution of Nigeria separates Lagos from Western Region.

**The Chairman** : Would the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) please wind up his speech ?

**Mr Odulana** : I will repeat, before I take my seat, that whatever sub-contract we can carry out as Nigerian contractors must not go to expatriates, especially in the field of transport where we are scrambling to get a position in, and a livelihood for ourselves and for our dependants. If this point is not taken care of, contracts will continue to go to Syrian and European sub-contractors. I must mention this for the Government to know. These expatriate contractors are the El Khalils, the Hassans, the Armels, and so on.

I beg to support the expenditure of £12,885,440 on this Head, but must repeat that Nigerian contractors in the field of land transport must not be forgotten.

House of Representatives Debates

2105

[Appropriation (1964-65)

9 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

2106

**Mr F. U. Ihe** (Okigwi North East): Notwithstanding the efforts which are indeed praiseworthy and which have been made towards the building of railways in this country, and the plan of the hon. Minister of Transport yet to continue railway extension, great attention must be drawn to our railway stations. Some of our railway stations have no waiting rooms and no toilet rooms for passengers. The position continues to be what it used to be during the colonial days when the railways were first built. I think it is really proper that the Minister should look into these railway stations and see to it that we have waiting rooms so that passengers will not be subjected to tortures by rain and sun with some of them having their loads packed outside.

Although some of these railway stations have waiting rooms and toilet rooms I find that such stations are the first-class railway stations. I think that those which have not been made first-class railway stations should also receive our attention. For example, some of the railway stations like Ozare railway station—that, of course, is a new station—have no waiting rooms. The result is that many passengers who travel by train stand outside. That is not really good. I hope that the Minister will do something about that.

There are incidentally, some railway stations where there are waiting rooms but there are no provisions for seats despite the fact that many people use those railway stations. That is not good. I think that it is high time something was done in this regard because Nigeria is growing and there is to-day a great need for improvement and development in our life. This development should also apply to our railway stations. I beg to support.

**Mr B. A. Ajayi** (Egbado South): I rise to support the expenditure of £12,885,440 under this Head.

Highways are more important to this country than to any other country. We have very limited waterways. The waterways are more or less restricted to the South, except the River Niger which penetrates a little into the North. So, we in this country need, more than any other country, to develop our transport system.

I find here that the Nigerian Railway Corporation is going to spend a million and a

half pounds. This is quite good. I hope that it will be possible to execute the West to East railway line. In this planning, I think that there is need for objectivity.

A question was raised in this House during this session, that the Niger bridge from Onitsha to Asaba should accommodate a railway line which might be built later. The answer was that the design had been on and for that reason it would not be done. I thought that we could kill two birds with a stone. If it is the design only that is preventing it, I see no reason why we should not delay the design and then make a complete one which will save us a lot of money in future. I hope that the Minister of Transport will try as much as possible to examine this and see if he can incorporate a railway track on the Niger bridge.

I have one or two things to say on *Road Rehabilitation, General*. The rate at which we improve our roads, especially against flood, is very slow. If the Minister of Transport travels from Ibadan to Ile-Ife to Akure and to Owo he will find that that road linking these places is very bad. If an old man travels on that road he will need to lie in bed and wait for a Doctor to examine him.

There is a very important point which has been repeated over and over again in this House and that is the point which the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) has just touched again. Indeed we give undue priority to foreigners in the award of contracts. We are not suggesting that foreigners should not be participating. They can participate. But one cannot arrive unless one makes a start. Our contractors must make a start and then grow gradually until such a time that they will be able to undertake major projects. Sometimes the Government gives a contract of about £10 million. The oil refinery in the East went to an expatriate firm. Indeed, most projects, I am afraid, will go to expatriates. Let us encourage the very promising Nigerian young contractors. If we encourage them, time will come when they will be very big contractors.

I beg to support.

*Whereupon the Minister of Establishments (Mr J. C. Obande) 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 the expenditure from the Development Fund of twelve million, eight hundred and eighty-five thousand, four hundred and forty pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 624—Land Transport System, be approved.

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.*

*House in Committee.*

#### HEAD 625.—WATER TRANSPORT SYSTEM

**Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh :** I beg to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of one million six hundred and forty-five thousand, eight hundred and thirty pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 625—Water Transport System, be approved.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. A. Lana) :** I beg to second.

**Mr E. A. Mordi (Asaba East) :** I do not intend to be very elaborate on this Head, and I certainly will be very brief. But I just want to call the attention of the Minister of Transport to the fact that the workers of the Inland Waterways Department are not very happy.

It would be recalled that sometime ago during this Session, I did ask a question on this issue. The question was whether the Minister was aware that the workers under the Inland Waterways were very unhappy. The answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister (*Mr F. E. Offor*), who happens to be present here this afternoon, was that he was not aware. It was as brief as that.

**Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East) :** I want to plead on behalf of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport (*Mr Offor*). He did not give the answer, he merely read what was given to him to read.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments (Mr Akubakar Isandu) :** According to the Member for Owerri East, it was given to the Parliamentary Secretary to read and that was from the Minister. He was not aware of it.

**Mr Mordi :** I hear the Minister ask what is the difference. The difference is that what was read was not his own answer.

**Mr Offor :** The answer I read was exactly the truth.

**Mr Mordi :** I do not very much bother whether it was a read answer or an answer from the Parliamentary Secretary himself. I think the essential point is that an answer was given. The answer was that the Minister was not aware. It does seem to me that the Minister has not been particularly interested in these workers, otherwise, he would have known that on January 8th, *The Daily Telegraph*, on page three came out with a publication in which these workers expressed their greatest dissatisfaction.

I also wish to remind the Minister that on the 7th of January, 1964, on page two of *The Daily Express*, the workers also indicated their greatest dissatisfaction and even threatened a strike. In the Government Paper—*The Post*—which was published on the 7th of January also, the feelings of these workers were made clear and in *The West African Pilot* of the 6th of January, exactly the same point was made. All these, I think, are clear evidence of the great frustration which these workers are suffering in their department at present.

The Member for Aba South (*Mr O. C. Ememe*) commented sometime ago on the promotion system in this very department. He said that promotion is very slow and very badly done. Many of the workers have been stagnant for many years and there is no hope that they will retire better than they went into the department.

I think the time has come when consideration must be given to effecting a change of policy on the side of the Government. When somebody goes into a department and after twenty-five years of service to the Government he is no better than he went in, I think this is a very bad situation.

I will have to say that out of total of about six hundred ratings, in the department, there are only two of them who have attained semi-senior posts as Assistant Control Officers. I think this is horrible and unbearable.

There is also a policy which the department pursues and that is cheap labour.



**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** My hon. Friend is very irrelevant. This is Capital Estimate Debate, and it has nothing to do with the Department, question of unemployment or any such matter.

**Mr Mordi :** Why I say this is that we find under this Head that a substantial sum of money is being voted for clearing the water ways and when we think of this some people are going to do the clearing. These people must be taken care of. Otherwise the money we are investing would be a waste. I think this is the argument of the Minister.

As I was saying, most of the waterways, quite frankly, have not been cleared for the past five years because of what the Ministry called shortage of Waterways Officers. There are many people who are capable of holding these posts and I therefore very strongly suggest that people should be promoted to these posts of Waterways Officers.

There are no officers there and our waterways are completely blocked. It is difficult to find our river crafts lined up our rivers. Having said so much about the condition of workers I hope the Minister will give serious consideration to the issue, and ensure that the condition of the workers—

**Chief Abii :** The Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) is irrelevant. Would he tell us whether the Minister will read what he is saying ?

**Mr Mordi :** That is what is wrong with our Parliament. Members come and talk about their constituencies and the country's problems but the Ministers who are supposed to take note of these things do not even read the *Hansard*.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Both the questioner and the Member who answered are mischief makers. They know that I am here and that the *Hansard* is read in the departments and taken care of. They also know that my colleague, the Minister of Transport, is a very meticulous man.

**Mr Mordi :** People say that the test of the pudding is in the eating. Here we are in this Parliament. As a matter of fact, when we arrived here the Minister of Finance said that the Minister of Transport was not yet here. How can the Minister know what we want ?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport (Mr F. E. Offor) :** I do not think that there is anything that the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) would ask or would like to know about the Ministry of Transport that he would not know whether the Minister is here or not.

**Mr J. U. Udenyi (Enyong North) :** I think the solution to this is to have an attendance register in this House.

**Mr Mordi :** If you would agree with me, everybody feels that I can be a Minister if I have the opportunity. People are laughing over this matter which, in my opinion, is a very serious one.

It is absolutely necessary that the Minister in charge of this Department must have to take interest in this work. Now, having said that, I would like to point out one or two anomalies which are very glaring in respect of Inland Waterways. I want to say that the Waiting Room at Asaba is a big disgrace. Until the bridge is completed, we should not allow the ferry to go. I do not think the Government should abandon the ferry completely.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Why not, when the bridge is coming up ?

**Mr Mordi :** It only favours the people who are running their own transport. In any case, I do not think the Government is going to abandon the ferry. The inconvenience between now and the time the bridge is going to be completed would weigh so heavily and would detract from the reputation of this country. Most of these ferry boats are so slow that they take about two or three hours on the journey. When people come from say, Lagos to Asaba and they want somewhere to ease themselves, they cannot find where to go. The condition is very unfavourable for travellers.

I think it would also be necessary to point out that in quite a number of places within the riverine areas, the launches are in a deplorable condition. Although the Minister of Finance has said that the bridge is coming up and we are given the assurance that the bridge will be opened next year, special care should be taken to see to it that the condition of the ferry between Asaba and Onitsha is improved. I think it is most inconvenient for someone to have

[MR MORDI]

to stand for more than one and a half hours. In most cases, people have to stand for two hours.

The engine of the ferry boat is almost dead and useless. I am suggesting that I do not consider it a waste of money if a new ferry boat could be bought. Even if the bridge is completed, real maintenance of the existing ones should be carried out so that people can travel comfortably.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. K. de-Omomadia** (Urhobo East) : I would like to make a few observations on this Head. Two years ago, we were happy when a dockyard was opened at Warri. That brought about the transfer of the old marine from Forcados to Warri. But, it is surprising to note that, for the past year, there have been complaints of shortage of both senior and junior staff in the dockyard. I think that if the Government can afford to spend some money in building a dockyard of that size at Warri, it should also be prepared to make adequate arrangements for the provision of the necessary staff.

There was the post of the Higher Stores Officer which was vacant throughout the past year and was not filled. I think the Minister concerned should make all necessary arrangements for the staffing of the dockyard.

Another point is the question of stores and materials. There have been complaints of shortage of materials in the dockyard as well as in the stores. I think also that the Minister concerned should see to it that all necessary materials of stores are provided.

I beg to support.

**Alhaji Umaru Maltumbi** (Muri North) : I would like to say a few words on this Head. I hope that as a result of the big money voted on this Head, it would be an opportunity for the Government to improve the ferry boat in the Numan Division. The present ferry boat in the Numan Division is in a bad condition. The ferry boat there had been used somewhere before it was brought to Numan Division. It is in such a very bad condition that it could not ply by itself. It wastes a lot of time and people have to wait for hours before they could cross from one end to the other.

It is through this ferry boat that Adamawa Province is linked with any part of this country. It is also through this ferry boat that our groundnut, wheat and cotton seeds are evacuated. In the rainy season, labourers are employed to bring out water from the ferry boat because of leakage.

I therefore appeal to the Minister to see that something is done to improve the condition of the ferry boat. I suggest that another ferry boat should be bought to replace the existing one.

I beg to support.

*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.*

*Resolved :* That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million Six Hundred and Forty-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred and Thirty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 625—Water Transport System, be approved.

#### HEAD 626.—AIR TRANSPORT SYSTEM

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I beg to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, One Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Sixty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 626—Air Transport System, be approved.

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

**M. Muhammed Ningi** (Bauchi North West) : I rise to support the expenditure on this Head. In doing so, I should like to draw the attention of the Minister of Transport to the point I would like to make.

Although Jos Airport is not an international one, I should like to suggest to the Minister that the airport should be improved.

House of Representatives Debates

2113

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

9 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

2114

I remember that last year before the Prime Minister's aircraft took off, it was pushed because of the bad condition of the airfield.

I am suggesting strongly that this airport should be improved.

I beg to support.

**Mr D. D. U. Okay** (Port Harcourt) : I support the views expressed by the Member for Bauchi North West (*M. Muhammed Ningi*) that Bauchi Airport should be improved. Our Prime Minister is from Bauchi and all the roads, bridges, industries and all the projects in Bauchi Province should be modernised. Bauchi Province should be compensated for producing a first class citizen and in international figure like Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.

The amount of £5,000 voted for the lengthening of the main runway of the Port Harcourt Airport is very small. Port Harcourt is the second largest port in the Republic and it should have an airport befitting its dignity. Port Harcourt has enough land to offer to the Federal Government for the construction of an airport befitting the status of Port Harcourt.

I am appealing to the Federal Government to improve the Port Harcourt Airport and bring it to international standard.

I beg to support.

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (Ibarapa) : In contributing to the debate on the capital expenditure for the improvement of our air transport system, I would like to say that the Federal Government should start co-ordinating the training of our Air Force men. At the moment, we are training our Air Force men in Ethiopia, Canada, Britain and other countries of the world. We all know that different countries produce different types of aircraft and except we co-ordinate the training of our men, it will be difficult for them to maintain the aircraft we buy.

May I also appeal to the Federal Government to improve the Ibadan Airport. The Ibadan Airport cannot take big aircraft. If the Ibadan Airport is improved aircraft which are diverted from Lagos will be able to land at Ibadan. If Ibadan airport is expanded and improved, it will be for the good of everybody.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I think that my hon. Friend the Member for Ibarapa (*Mr Gbolagunte*) is ignorant about the movement of aircraft.

If an aeroplane is in trouble, it may be easier for the aeroplane to land in Lagos than to go and land in Ibadan. For a fast aeroplane it will take about ten to fifteen minutes to get to Ibadan, I challenge the Member for Ibarapa to tell this House in which country of the world all airports are international airports.

If we make all our airports international, there will not be enough Customs Officers, Immigration Officials and other airport personnel to put there. The hon. Gentleman wants to encourage smuggling, that is why he wants the Federal Government to make Ibadan Airport an international airport.

Furthermore, I understand the hon. Gentleman's car has been seized.

**Mr Gbolagunte** : On a point of information, my car is undergoing repairs at the Incar Motor Company at Ibadan. May I also inform the Minister of Finance that I have finished paying the loan I got for the car.

**Mr S. A. Lana** : There are no smugglers in Ibadan.

**Mr P. O. Akpan** (Uyo South East) : In contributing to this debate, I would like to say something about the Ibadan Airport and how it affects the economy of the Nigeria Airways.

The Ibadan Airport is situated in a hilly area and what happens is that only aeroplanes with big engines can take-off at the Airport. What happens is that the Foker Friendship aircraft bought by the Nigeria Airways, if they are scheduled to call at Ibadan on their way to Northern Region cannot take more than twenty-five passengers. The number of seats in the aircraft will have to be reduced to twenty-five in order that the aeroplane may be able to take-off at Ibadan Airport safely. If hon. Members can take the trouble to look at the proceeds from the use of the Foker Friendship aircraft they will see that the Aircraft are a complete failure. Whereas, if the Nigeria Airways had bought the Viscount it could have been able to take fifty passengers and take-off easily.

I am sure hon. Members from the North can bear me out that when they try to book a seat in an aeroplane going to the North and the aeroplane is to call at Ibadan, once the Nigeria Airways can get twenty-five passengers they will be told that the aeroplane is fully booked.

[MR AKPAN]

The Airways lose money because some people who could have taken the aeroplane in Lagos would be left behind so as to make it possible for the aeroplane to take-off at Ibadan Airport.

I would not be surprised if probably during the next sitting of the House the Minister of Finance asks this House to vote some money for the Airways to buy better aeroplanes.

The Foker Friendship aircraft is only two-engined with the result that it has not got enough power to take-off from an aerodrome which is hilly. It is disappointing that the Nigeria Airways undertook to buy the Foker Friendship aircraft and, of course, we know why this was so and, I think the Osindero Commission will tell hon. Members the truth about the £250,000 deal.

Some time ago, there was a plan to build an airport at Uyo in Calabar Province but up till the present moment, even though a survey had already been conducted, nothing has been done. I do not know what the Government has in mind.

I am, therefore, urging the Government to consider seriously, the possibility of opening that airport at the earliest opportunity.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, One Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Sixty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 626—Air Transport System, be approved.

HEAD 627.—COMMUNICATIONS

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I beg to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Eight Hundred and Seventy-Nine Thousand, Two Hundred and Eighty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 627—Communications, be approved.

**Minister of State (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima) :** I beg to second.

**Mr J. U. Udenyi (Enyong North) :** May I say that the expenditure that this honourable House is going to approve now is very important.

The telephone system in this country is very poor. Hon. Members will be surprised to hear that it takes as long as three hours for a trunk call to get through to Enugu and six hours to get through to Umuahia.

The services in the Post Office are very poor and I want the Minister to warn the workers to pay more attention to their work. On several occasions, we have found out that the workers in this Post Office are not prepared to work and we have reported the matter to the authority, but all we were told was that the matter was receiving attention.

I want to talk now about our postal services in this country. I suggested, I think it was last year, on the Floor of this House, that the Government should consider the provision of at least a Post Office in every Constituency in the Federation as of prime importance. If there is no efficient postal service in this country no business can be transacted as quickly as it should be done, including those of this Parliament.

For instance, if there is no good postal service in the country and we want to summon the Members for an emergency meeting of the Parliament, it will be very difficult to summon them. If the Clerk of the Parliaments sends telegrams to Members to appear in Lagos, say, on Saturday, and if there is no good postal service, the telegrams will not get to Members until about the next Monday and this means that the Members will not be able to attend the emergency meeting and nobody can blame any Member for failing to attend such an emergency meeting under this circumstance.

For all these reasons I have given, I feel that great attention must be paid to telephone and postal services in this country.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr T. I. Etukudo (Eket West) :** In supporting this Head of Capital Estimate I want to express the appreciation of the people of my constituency to the Government for converting the postal agency at Ikot Ubo into a Sub-Post Office.

It was rather unfortunate that the Minister of Communications was unable to come to our area during the official opening of this Post Office as expected, however, a welcome address was handed to his representative for delivery to him.

I want to say that since the Post Office was opened the volume of business transacted there has been increasing. I therefore appeal to the Minister to provide telephone and telegraphic services in the Post Office to serve the need of the people.

I also want to remind the Minister about our application for the installation of telephones in Eket. I appeal to the Minister to consider our application in this respect, because telephone service is very essential in every part of this country to-day.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh** (Ishan West): I want to repeat something that I have been saying very often in this House about the Sub-Post Office at Ekpoma. I have observed that under Sub-head 125 there will be new post offices, and extensions to existing offices: may I know whether these extensions include the Ekpoma Post Office?

It is a pity that the Minister is not here now to answer my question. The other time when I asked about what he was doing to the Post Office, his answer was that a decision had been taken to build a Post Office there and that it was the P.W.D. which was delaying work on it.

I do not know why this work cannot be given to indigenous contractors who are looking for work to do instead of giving it to P.W.D. which has now refused to do the work in time.

It appears that the Government does not want to do this work. If the Government had wanted to build a Post Office there it could have given the contract to indigenous contractors. After all, some other Post Offices like the Uromi Post Office were not built by the P.W.D. They were built by indigenous contractors and they are as good as those built by the P.W.D.

I think that it is a lame excuse to say that the Government has agreed to build a Post Office there, but that it is the P.W.D. that is delaying the work on it.

I filed a Motion on this same matter last year and the Minister informed me that £7,000 had been provided for the building of this Post Office. He also said that he would see what he could do to have the post office built. I am now urging the Minister to kindly see that his promise is fulfilled.

I heard some Members saying that I should file another Motion. There is no need for another Motion since the Minister said that money had been provided for the post office and since he had given a promise to get the post office built.

I do hope that the Minister is not deceiving me because if he is, he will be deceiving the masses. I hope that the post office will be built before the dissolution of this House.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr N. E. Elenwa** (Ahoada West): In contributing to this debate I will go straight to Sub-head 122—Conversion of Postal Agencies into Sub-Post Offices. It is regrettable to note that there will be no conversion of any postal agency into a post office throughout this year.

In fact, we have heard the Minister answer questions from Members of this House, and he has always said that many of our existing Postal Agencies, some of them with 20,000 or 30,000 units will soon be converted into either sub-post offices or full fledged post offices.

But we have all seen from the Estimate for the year 1964-65 that no postal agency will be converted into a sub-post office or full fledged post office throughout the length and breadth of Nigeria. This is very regrettable.

Another very important facility in this country is telephone facility. I once discussed the provision of telephones for the Omoku post office with the hon. Minister. I have repeated it several times in this House that this post office was built by communal efforts, and that the only thing the Government has done for the post office since about one and a half years that it was built was the approval given to its opening.

It beats one's imagination why the Government could not provide telephone facilities in a post office that was built through communal efforts.

I am therefore appealing to the Minister to see that telephone facilities are provided in Omoku post office.

Another point is that of the Abua postal agency which is in my constituency. This agency has got over and above the units required to convert it into a post office, but up till the present moment, nothing has been done to get it converted into either a sub-post office or a standard post office.

[MR ELENWA]

I know that there is no provision for it to be converted this year, but I appeal to the Minister to see that something is done about it next year.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr M. A. Ajasin** (Owo South): I want to ask that the Minister of Communications should submit a *White Paper* on the development of telecommunications as was done by his predecessor in office, Dr K. O. Mbadiwe, who, when he was the Minister of Communications and Aviation, prepared a *White Paper* for the five-year development period.

The present Minister promised in this House, during the Budget Session of 1962, that in August, he would submit a *White Paper* which would show the locations of the post offices that have been mentioned in the Six-Year Development Plan.

If he can do that—there are certain post offices that should be opened within these six years and he should put down the towns where these post offices and automatic telephone exchanges will be—everybody will see it, and there will be little or no difficulty for Members to know where the post offices will be built.

There will then be no need for Members coming here every time to ask that post offices and sub-post offices should be built in their towns because the *White Paper* will show clearly what has been set down.

I can remember that the present Minister of Communications made use of the *White Paper* prepared by the former Government. Since he came into office, he has always referred to that *Paper*, and when people asked about sub-post offices he would mention that this or that post office was 24,000 units and so on.

Now that he is proposing to reduce the 24,000 units to 18,000 units after several Members have actually asked on many occasions that it be reduced, why does he not prepare another *White Paper* now and put it before this House so that when it is accepted he will be able to follow it and saves us the trouble of coming here every time to ask about where post offices or automatic telephone exchanges will be?

That is what I want to say; the Minister made a promise but he has not fulfilled his promise. Though this is an election year,

he could still do it if he wated to. Once it has been approved by this Government, the next Government will carry on with it for the remaining period of the Six-Year Development Plan.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Eight Hundred and Seventy-Nine Thousand, Two Hundred and Eighty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 627—Communications, be approved.

#### HEAD 628.—WATER SUPPLIES

*Forty Thousand pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure 1964-65, under Head 628—Water Supplies—approved.*

#### HEAD 629.—EDUCATION

**The Minister of Finance:** I beg to move—That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Five Million, Two Hundred and Twenty-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twenty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65, under Head 629—Education, be approved.

**Minister of State for the Army** (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima): I beg to second.

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (Ibarapa): We feel that the money spent on the West African Examinations Council as capital grant is not wasted, but we have repeated on the Floor of this House that the lives of so many young men are ruined by the imposition of the passing of English Language as a condition for granting them the West African School Certificate or the General Certificate of Education and that this condition should be withdrawn immediately. This year the results are out and—

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East): On a point or order, the hon. Member is misleading this House. It will appear that he is not aware of what is happening in the country. Already The West African Examinations Council has agreed to waive English as a compulsory subject for the award of the Certificate. He ought to have known that.

**Mr A. Akomolafe** (Ekiti North East): On a point of information, the students can be

House of Representatives Debates

2121

[Appropriation (1964-65)

9 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

2122

referred in English but if they are not given the West African School Certificate, they can be given the General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level), that is without the English, but for the examination, English Language is still compulsory.

**Mr Mordi :** On a point of order, that is in so far as this year is concerned.

**Mr Gbolagunte :** I was saying that that condition should be lifted to the effect that, if it is possible, the granting of the West African School Certificate should be retrospective to as far back as 1960.

This year, as the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) was trying to tell me, people who have been referred in English can be given the General Certificate of Education but that will not help the boys' grading. A boy who is referred in English cannot be placed in Grade One. He cannot even be graded in Grade Two, and when he wants to go further in his education, this result will be referred to. So, the student is demoralised if he cannot be graded.

Although he has the General Certificate of Education, that is not equivalent to the West African School Certificate. So, I beg that the Minister should make this condition retrospective and let the students who were referred in English as far back as 1960 be graded and given their certificates.

I know that he is not the only one going to do it. He will have to co-operate with the other Members of the West African Examinations Council. However, that should be a suggestion from the Floor of this House. The money spent on that Council is not a waste.

I notice there is going to be a total amount of over £3 million granted to the Northern Region for primary education. This is not being tribalistic but you all know that we in the other Regions, the East, the West and even the Mid-West, are spending so much on education, especially on primary education. The West made her own compulsory, at least, free; the East and the Mid-West are also doing something about it.

I think that some money should be given to the other Regions to help them in their primary education. Over three million pounds is

going to be given to the Northern Region. The others should be given money too.

An expansion of the primary school system in Lagos is a necessity. As we are sitting here, there are about 300,000 boys and girls in Lagos schools now. There are some who go to school at 8 o'clock in the morning and leave the school at 12.30 p.m. Another set will go at 12.30 p.m. and will not leave until 6 o'clock. In most of these schools, one finds that there are up to 8 or 9 streams, in one primary school. I do not know how the teachers feel after being in school after 5 o'clock.

If this money is properly spent, more primary schools should be built. The money itself is going to be spent on site acquisition, building, equipment and other things. All these things should be hastened so that many more children would have better accommodations in schools and the teachers, greater conveniences.

It is very encouraging that about £20,000 is given for the building of schools for the deaf. The children who are deaf should not be resigned to unhappiness, but I think this money will not be voted again next year. This money should be spent and provision should be made for these deaf children. The blind children also should have sufficient provision. There is nothing here for the provision of building or equipment for the blind children. They should have sufficient.

We have something here for Post-Graduate Scholarship awards and Expanded Scholarship Scheme, and that is about £1.6 million. I now begin to wonder why so many of our students still suffer in the Universities. If we spend £500 on every student in the University, we shall have 3,275 students enjoying Federal Government scholarship. The Regional Governments give scholarship. If the Federal Government can give up to 3,275 scholarships, paying £500 for every student, I do not see why our students should continue to suffer.

I am therefore suggesting that the Federal Government should look into the universities and see how the students are suffering from lack of funds. I am quite sure we do not at the moment have more than 3,275 students enjoying Federal Government Scholarship. So we should go into these universities and

[MR GBOLAGUNTE]

give these young students who are prepared to study every opportunity to do so.

There should be no more expansion of Grade II and Grade III Teachers Training Colleges. We are spending up to £50,000 on the expansion of these training colleges in Lagos alone. There should be only one system of teacher training in this country, and that is the advanced teachers course.

We should not, therefore, continue to spend large sums of money on these colleges. We should concentrate on the advanced teachers training colleges in order to have a respectable course of training for our teachers. These are my points, Sir.

I beg to support.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East): I want to speak on Sub-head 162—Citizenship and Leadership Training Centre at Kurra Falls. The money voted for this Sub-head, in my opinion, is very inadequate. I happened to visit that centre in December last year, and while I was there, I had the privilege of holding discussions with the Principal of the Centre. He told me that funds were not forthcoming for the developments envisaged.

I hope that when this vote is approved, as I am almost certain that it will be, the Ministry of Education will do everything possible to send the necessary funds, as soon as possible to the centre in order to enable the Authorities to complete the new buildings for the students.

I have no doubt that hon. Members will agree with me that this centre is a very important one. It is not only important because it is sited in the Plateau Province, it is important because it projects the Nigerian personality abroad.

A visit to that centre will show that students from various parts of Africa attend various leadership courses there. These courses in turn, have done a great deal of good to many leaders of this country. One should therefore feel rather surprised at the little money that is voted for this centre. I think more money should be voted for it.

Another Sub-head I would like to talk about is Sub-head 325—Advanced Teacher Training Centre. Up till now we do not know the future of the students who pass out of this institution. We do not know whether after

completing their course they will be graded as Grade I or a little bit above it. I happened to have met some of these students and their principal, and I gather that no clear explanation has been given to this effect. These people want the position to be clarified and I hope that the Minister of Education will be able to tell them exactly what they will become on the successful completion of their courses.

Furthermore, some of these students come from voluntary agency schools. I am appealing to the Government to see to it that when these people go back to their voluntary agency schools, they should be graded just as their counterparts in the other Government establishments.

What generally happens is this, after doing the courses, the students from the voluntary agencies do not get as much encouragement as those from the Government establishments. As a result, they all get out of the field.

The Prime Minister of this country was once a teacher; the Chairman of this Committee was also a teacher. In fact many hon. Members of this House used to be teachers and many are still teachers now. What I am trying to get at is that if the teachers from Government service are given car advances and allowances, there is no reason why those from the voluntary agencies who have done the same courses, should not get the same privileges. They should all be encouraged in the same way, so that they will all join forces in training our young people.

The teaching profession, as we all know, is part of nation building. That is my argument. Let the Federal Government do everything possible to encourage these teachers. Most people look upon the teaching profession as where the "never-do-wells" go to. They think that only people who have failed in life take up teaching as a profession. We should remove this idea from everybody's mind.

Another point I would like to speak on is Sub-head 463. This is in respect of post-graduate scholarship awards. This has to do with the students in the universities. What I want to say here is merely to appeal to the Government with all seriousness that we should have every trust in our university students, we should also expect them to steer clear of politics.



I hear several hon. Members ask why. It is because these students are always engrossed in politics. They keep on demonstrating in manners which are not in the interests of this country. As a matter of fact, these demonstrations are not purposely planned by the students themselves. What happens is that some disappointed politicians who have never had the support of the masses go and sponsor the university students and incite them—

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (Ibarapa) : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman is misleading this House. The students in the universities are mature men and women and they cannot be influenced by the politicians. Members will agree that the universities are training grounds for everything, so they should train people in politics too, so that they can be better politicians when they come out than most of the people we now have. I am quite sure that when these students come out of the universities and become parliamentarians, they will not endeavour to cross carpet in this House.

**Mr Lar** : The Member for Ibarapa (*Mr Gbolagunte*) is worried by guilty conscience. I know it is his party that is fond of inciting university students to demonstrate against constituted authority. I am saying that we should not allow that any longer. I am therefore sounding this warning to that section of the House, that we are fed up with this type of behaviour.

**Mr Gbolagunte** : Sir, the hon. Member is still misleading the House. My party is not causing any confusion in the universities, and it is not my party that is doing what he is saying. So he is misleading this House.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments** (M. Akubakar Isandu) : On a point of order, what the Member for Lowland East (*Mr Lar*) is saying is correct. These boys and girls in Ibadan University tried to come to Lagos during the census controversy, and when they were stopped by the Police, they took another route to Lagos. They were the very people who damaged the pictures of the Prime Minister and the Premier of Northern Nigeria. I wonder what good that is to us.

**Mr Lar** : What I was saying is that we should all have confidence in our students in the

universities because they are the future leaders of this country. Therefore we should expect them to rise above tribal politics. In many cases we see that these students are being pushed by tribalistic feelings, and that is why I am against their behaviour. That is the point I am trying to make.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : On a point of order, unprogressive minds and elements in this country should not discourage future leaders of Nigeria. Students have every right to practise politics because when they come out of the universities, they will be the leaders.

They are not, I am sure, going to be the type of men who have sold their conscience, and are crossing from one side of the House to the other, thus making Parliament a place for grabbing money. These people should not come to the Nigerian Parliament at all. Carpet crossers are not fit to be here.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : On a point of information, the cat has been let out of the bag now. There is no doubt that those of us Yorubas that are in one political party with the Ibos are the people that are wrong. There are no Ibos in the N.P.C. and Action Group.

*Question put and agreed to.*

**Resolved** : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Five Million, Two Hundred and Twenty-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twenty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 629—Education, be approved.

#### HEAD 630.—HEALTH

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I beg to move, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, Six Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 630—Health, be approved.

**Alhaji Tako Galadima** : I beg to second.

**Mr J. S. Tarka** (Jemgba) : I would like to bring to the notice of this House the appalling condition of hospitals in Lagos, especially that of the University Teaching Hospital.

[MR TARKA]

From time to time, this House votes large sums of money with which to carry out maintenance services in hospitals within the Federal territory of this Republic. These monies have been wasted in building health centres, without the prior knowledge of this House, instead of using the large sums of money voted for the maintenance of hospitals. Now, these health centres are not being utilised, and at the same time the various hospitals in Lagos are going without sufficient drugs. Every year, from the month of February to the beginning of April, all hospitals in Lagos run short of drugs.

Of recent, I had cause to take a patient to the University Teaching Hospital, Lagos. There, I observed that when the doctor prescribed a particular drug for my patient, the drug was not available in the hospital and so my patient could not get it.

On another occasion, I had cause to go to the Lagos General Hospital myself for treatment because I had a cut on my hand. After my treatment in the hospital, I requested that my hand be bandaged by the doctor who treated me, but surprisingly, the doctor said that there were no bandages. I had to go out to a Chemist shop to buy a bandage for my hand.

This is a very serious situation, taking into consideration the fact that the population of Lagos is increasing by leaps and bounds, and the fact that Lagos is the capital city of this Republic. Therefore, our hospitals should be well equipped in order to meet the ever increasing population.

It is true that I am not representing Lagos in this House, but I am representing Nigeria. I am a Nigerian Member of Parliament, and it is, therefore, proper for me to bring the anomalies prevailing in Lagos hospitals to the notice of this House.

Our Lagos hospitals should, in fact, serve as an example to other hospitals in the hinterland. The hospitals in Lagos should be a sort of window dressing for other hospitals in this country to emulate.

I think the Minister of Health will be doing this country a great service if he concentrates his energy on the maintenance of our existing hospitals rather than attempting to introduce health centres that are not acceptable to this country.

The Minister should listen to public opinion. He should listen to the advice of the Medical Board and that of the Medical Association which represents a group of very highly respected professional people.

Contrary to public opinion, the Minister has been trying to carry out projects that are wasteful and projects that did not receive the support of medical practitioners in Lagos.

The Minister should not waste public funds by building unutilised health centres.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : The conditions of Lagos hospitals must be deplored on the Floor of this House. The Minister should know that the inhabitants of Lagos, including strangers who visit Lagos, are not happy with the state of affairs obtaining in Lagos hospitals.

We know that the Minister himself is a well qualified doctor. I hear some hon. Members say that the Minister is a politician. I must say that he is not a politician, otherwise he would have known where the shoe pinches. Since he is not a politician, he does not know the feelings of the public and also does not listen to the yearnings of the masses. I have only noticed of recent that the Minister made himself a tribal organiser.

**The Minister of Establishments** (Mr J. C. Obande) : On a point of order, the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) is irrelevant. He is not speaking on this Head.

**The Chairman** : This part of the speech of the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) is irrelevant.

**Mr Okoronkwo** : Last year the Minister of Health brought up a Bill in this House and all sides of this House condemned it. There was also a public uproar throughout the whole Republic because of that Bill. Similarly, all hon. Members protested on the Floor of this House against the introduction of that Bill, and it was rejected. After all the public resentments against this Bill, the Minister has continued to implement, directly or indirectly, some of the measures which Parliament rejected, even though the Minister went round to campaign that hon. Members should help the Bill to be passed, but failed.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Mr S. Lana) : On a point of

House of Representatives Debates

2129

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

9 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

2130

order, the question of campaigning or protesting in Lagos is not a matter for discussion now; so that the Gentleman speaking is irrelevant.

**Mr Okoronkwo** : I am talking of health centres in Lagos. It may be the Minister's interest in building these health centres had so blinded him that he could not carry out the right thing required in providing Lagos hospitals with sufficient drugs. Lagos is the Capital of Nigeria, and everything in it must be first-class.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : The Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) says he wants the Minister to provide Lagos hospitals with all sorts of drugs. May I tell him that we do not want poison in Lagos hospitals, like those being used in the East.

**Mr Okoronkwo** : I wonder why this old man from Ijebu South should continue to disturb Members when they are making their own contributions.

We are appealing to the Minister of Health to take pains to discover what the people, the doctors and the nurses in Lagos want for the improvement of the hospitals in Lagos.

The other day the Minister made a statement in this House refuting allegations put forward by some Members on the Lagos Teaching Hospital. I must say that the Minister deceived the Members of this House by giving—

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I want to ask the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) to withdraw that remark. After all, we are honourable Members and it is very unparliamentary for anyone to charge a responsible Minister that he spoke untruth on the Floor of this House. I am asking the hon. Member to withdraw his remarks—(*Prolonged interruptions*).

**The Chairman** : Order, order. I think hon. Members must be careful how they address the House, particularly when they refer to Ministers. These Ministers are responsible for the government of the country and, apart from their personal qualities, they are indeed doing very important work for the nation and they should be respected as such.

*Mr Odulana and Mr Lana rose—*

**The Chairman** : There is no need for hon. Members to be so alarmed; after all, Mr Okoronkwo is an honourable Member himself. He knows that the House does not approve of his statement; you need not force him to withdraw for he himself will be able to do it. We must be honourable Members ourselves.

**Mr Okoronkwo** : If the statement I have made is an offensive one, although I did not intend to drag the name of the Minister to the mud, I am really sorry for that. But, nevertheless, I will still quote the figures I wanted to disclose to show that the Minister of Health gave us false figures on the Floor of this House.

When he gave us the number of people and their nationalities working in the Lagos Teaching Hospital the Minister gave us wrong figures. I therefore want to say this that the number of Yorubas in the Hospital is 751 as against 296 Ibos—(*Interruptions*).

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : On a point of order, I will never be deterred from harping on the need for people who are supposed to be responsible (and particularly one of the leaders of this country) to desist from throwing this type of tribal brick-bats on the Floor of this House. My hon. Friend should realise, too, that this Teaching Hospital is in Lagos and, therefore, it is natural that the preponderance of the staff should consist of Yorubas. But I am not by this siding anybody. I would like my hon. Friend to note, too, that the head of this hospital is an Itsekiri man. I will oppose anybody dragging his name to the mud. What is the matter? Is that the only hospital in Nigeria?

Some hon. Members are saying I am a tribalist. Well, why should I not—(*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman** : Order, order! We do not want points of disorder; what we want are points of order. It seems too many Members are not interested in the debate but in counter remarks which do not relate to the subject we are discussing. It might be more convenient—(*Prolonged interruptions*).

Order, order! I very much deprecate Members of this House turning the Floor of the House into a market place. This is very dishonourable, and we should not tolerate a situation like this. After all, we are discussing public business for which we are responsible.

[THE CHAIRMAN]

I was going to say that it might be more convenient for the House if the Minister of Health will give us some explanation to cure most of the ills lurking in the minds of Members.

**The Minister of Health** (Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I will leave the question concerning the staff of the Teaching Hospital to the very last, but I would like first of all to explain the position with regard to the building of health centres to which the Member for Jemgba (*Mr Tarka*) has referred. He pointed out that these health centres were being built without the approval of Parliament. I would like Members to recall that during the Budget Session of 1962 Parliament voted the sum of £715,000 for the building of health centres in Lagos.

My hon. Friend, (*Mr Tarka*) is saying that at that time he was in the cold storage. Well, that was where he deserved to be.

**Mr Tarka**: I take great exception to that remark. I am not a criminal and I do not deserve to be in the cold storage. The Minister himself ought to be placed in the cold storage because he is a dictator.

**Chief Majekodunmi**: He told me he was in the cold storage. I hear him again say that I put him there, and to that I will repeat that he deserved to be there.

**Mr Tarka**: On a point of order, I do not deserve to be in the prison for I have been exonerated by a High Court Judge.

**The Chairman**: Please do not use that point as an opportunity for controversy.

**Dr Majekodunmi**: I was only explaining that the time the Member for Jemgba (*Mr Tarka*) was detained that I was quite right in detaining him. I have no doubt in my mind that I was discharging my duty with all honesty and integrity.

These Health Centres were built with the approval of Parliament and they were built because the Federal Government feels that the pressure on our hospitals are so great that it is no longer possible to give adequate treatment to the large number of patients who now attend the hospitals. As I said a few days ago here on the Floor of this House, during 1963 over a

million people attended our out-patient departments, and under these circumstances, it is well nigh impossible for the doctors to give them the adequate attention which they require. Therefore, ordinary common sense dictates that we should disperse these patients, and that is what the Federal Government has done.

We have planned to build in each of the Wards one health centre so that people will not have to travel very long distances to receive medical attention. The fact that we have done this has received great acclamation by all enlightened medical opinion in this country and abroad. It is true that there was shortage of drugs in our hospitals. I must admit that there was shortage of drugs. But when you look at the vote for drugs — it is £407,000 — it is not possible to spend all the money of this Government on providing drugs for the patients. It is true that Members have complained that the condition in the hospitals is such that when patients go to the hospital they take a long time before they are attended to. But before we can attend to these patients adequately and to our own satisfaction, we have to spend more money on our medical service.

I would like Members to think about the condition of service here in Nigeria. It costs a British tax payer £20 *per* head for the comprehensive medical service which they have in Britain. Even then the people of Britain are not satisfied because it is an expensive undertaking to provide the comprehensive free medical service. To treat a person in Britain and to treat a person in Nigeria, so long as one is treating the same human being, it cannot cost very much less in terms of value of money. One has to use the same type of drugs, whether one is in Nigeria or in Britain, when a person is sick. But if Parliament decides here to vote £15 *per* head of the population of Lagos, I can promise the Members that the people of Lagos will get firstclass medical service. The Government cannot afford to spend all the money on drugs. We have other projects which we have to pay for.

It is incorrect for Members to come here to tell me that this House condemned the Health Bill which I introduced in this House last year. I have a copy of the *Hansard* of last year and I will quote what was said about the Health Bill.

House of Representatives Debates

2133

[Appropriation (1964-65)

9 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

2134

*"Mr Brown : Looking at the Lagos Health Bill I feel that the proposal is too advanced for the people of Lagos."*

He did not say that the Bill was a bad one. What he said was that it was too advanced for the people of Lagos.

*"M. Ibrahim Gusau : I rise to express a different view altogether about the Bill. I am not against the Bill. I am against the Minister of Health bringing any measure on the Floor of this House purely and solely for Lagos alone."*

I cannot understand what Members are saying now. They are saying that the medical services are not satisfactory in Lagos. We brought measures to improve the condition of medical service but Members say that we want to spend all the money in Lagos. What do Members want us to do? If we are not wanted to spend money on medical service, we cannot perform miracles. We cannot stretch the £407,000 which was voted for drugs and equipment to satisfy over a million people who attend our hospitals.

I now come to the question of tribalism in the Teaching Hospital. I thought that the question of tribalism would not come up again. Unfortunately, it is rearing its head again. I gave, with all sense of responsibility, some figures to this House that there are 141 Yorubas in the Teaching Hospital more than the Ibos. If we do not take account of the nursing staff (because, as I explained some time ago, in every community wherever there is a hospital the majority of the nursing staff are usually members of the community in the area in which the hospital is situated) then one will see that it is only a majority of 59 Yorubas more than the Ibos, in a town which is predominantly inhabited by Yoruba people.

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh** (Ishan West) : On a point of order, when the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) was speaking about tribes he was asked to sit down, but now the Minister of Health is going into the question of tribalism again and he is allowed to continue. The Minister of Health is the architect of *Egbe Omo Yoruba Parapo* and *Egbe Omo Olofin*.

**The Chairman** : We do not expect the Federal Minister to be tribal particularly when he is discussing a Head to which he is a

Minister. It will be more convenient if the hon. Minister winds up so that the Question can be put.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of order, the Minister of Health should not be allowed to continue these tribal figures, because the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) will start his own, and it may be too late—(Interruptions).

**The Chairman** : I know the Minister of Finance is giving a tribal impression. I think he should consider that some Members will take him seriously on this ground.

**Dr Majekodunmi** : The truth is very bitter and I have no intention of entering into any issue of tribalism in this House. I am not interested in the tribe of anybody. We are all the same Nigerians. We are all working very hard to promote the unity of this country and the ideal of one Nigeria.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One million, Six Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 630—Health, be approved.

HEAD 631.—TOWN PLANNING

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I beg to move, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Two Million Eight Hundred and Sixteen Thousand, Four Hundred and Fifty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 631—Town Planning, be approved.

**Chief Majekodunmi** : I beg to second.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos Central) : I shall be extremely brief on this matter. I just like to draw the attention of the House to the provisions under the Nigerian Building Society of a sum of £200,000. I am drawing the attention of the Minister to what obtains in the Building Society now. The object of the Society is to enable people to own their own houses and in so doing they advance money to people who apply to them for loans. In the past years the Society was running well. They advanced loans and repayments were going on smoothly. Lately, one can

[MR DOSUNMU]

hardly read any newspaper without finding property being advertised for sale by the Society. If one takes any newspaper, one will find that the Society is prepared to foreclose some of these mortgaged properties on flimsy excuses. When one has failed to pay one or two instalments, the management immediately pounces on one's property and is prepared to sell it even for an outstanding sum of only one hundred pounds.

I think that the main object of the Society is to enable people to own their houses and not after they have been given the money to build the houses, then the houses are re-sold. This makes the people worse than they were originally.

I do not say that if a person defaults for a length of time, his house should not be sold or that action should not be taken. I am urging that the management should be more sympathetic. They should claim the arrears of rent and leave the property alone. It is when somebody is a chronic defaulter that the Society should, as a last resort, dispose of his property.

If a man has not failed to pay four or five instalments, I do not see why his property should be sold.

When a man fails to pay an arrears of fifty pounds, the management threatens to dispose of a property which may worth five or six thousand pounds. This is not what was obtaining before. The former manager was more considerate and he was treating everybody fairly. I am not attacking the present manager, but he seems to be too harsh and he needs to be spoken to.

Again, I must express considerable disappointment over the failure of the Government to make provision for the Central Lagos Sewerage Scheme. This is so vital to the health of the people of Lagos—may I say of Nigeria—that I think it should be given priority. There is no single provision for the Lagos Sewerage Scheme. It defeats the whole exercise of the Minister of Health if in the Lagos of 1964 people are still carrying pails about. It will not matter how many hospitals or dispensaries are built, if we do not regard Lagos Central Sewerage Scheme as a No. 1 priority in the Development Programme.

My last point—and I am sorry that the Minister of Lagos Affairs is not here—is in connection with the houses built along Keffi Street. About twenty or thirty houses have been standing there empty for the past two years now.

Originally these houses were built for those displaced persons in the Central Lagos. The houses were supposed to be sold to them, but for one reason or the other, I understand that the Minister of Lagos Affairs took a different view and that he was not going to sell them to the displaced persons again.

What I am saying is this. Why allow the houses to remain empty for these years? They are not occupied, the doors are locked and we are complaining of shortage of housing accommodation. The plea I am making is this: if there is no question of policy on this, let these houses be sold to those persons whose houses were demolished in Central Lagos and if not, the Government should make a better use of the houses.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): For the information of the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) the doors have been opened and they are being sold. The Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) can go and buy them.

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** (Ahoada Central): Under this Head, there is a sum of £285,920 for the development of Lagos and also for loans towards the financing of L.E.D.B. programme.

I must say at once that the development of Lagos leaves much to be desired. We know that the capital city of any nation is a sort of show-piece of that nation. Immediately one goes to a capital city one can read what that nation is and that is contrary when one comes to Lagos. Lagos is not planned at all.

Yesterday at the M. & K. function, I had the opportunity of climbing to the seventh floor of the new M. & K. building and I had a look at Lagos. In fact, it was very nasty. If one wants to have a proper view of Lagos one should go to Falomo and other places. There, one will see that the whole of Lagos is stinking. If one goes along the streets, one will not see side-walls and we expect side-walls

to be built in the streets of Lagos. We must have a bold scheme for the development of Lagos and have Lagos planned all through.

I see under this Head that the sum of £1 million is to be used for Metropolitan Area Housing Development. That is very interesting and we would like it to be pursued because a housing development will help workers to get accommodation.

Last time we talked about house rent. If we can provide houses for workers, it will minimise the high rent now prevailing.

I would also like to speak about the Victoria Island Reclamation Phase IV Scheme which will cost as much as £806,050. I praise the authority that is in charge of this Reclamation Scheme; it may be the L.E.D.B. or the Lagos City Council. Whoever it is, is doing a very fine job in reclaiming this land. But it still has a lot to do because the sea is encroaching more and more every time.

I would like attention to be concentrated on this. It will not serve any useful purpose to erect houses in this place and to wake up one day and find that the houses have been washed away. A bolder thing should be done in respect of this.

The other item I would like to dilate upon is in respect of the sum of £112,000 which is to be used by the Lagos City Council for grants towards cost of capital development projects. When such an amount is given by the Federal Government, I would like the Government to see that the work is fully supervised. It is not enough to leave it in the hands of the City Council.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja)** : On a point of order, and the point of order is that the Lagos City Council in respect of the building of roads is autonomous under the Lagos Local Government Act.

**Mr Onwuchekwa** : What I was saying is that he who pays the piper, must, of necessity, dictate the tune. Even if it is being done by proxy, it must be supervised. When a certain amount has been voted we must see that it is used for good purpose. There is no use voting money for a work and the work is not supervised. It must be used for what it is intended.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South)** : Under the Federal Government African Staff Housing Scheme the sum of £400,000 is to be spent.

Whilst I am sure that this is a wise way of spending money, those people who are going to be benefitted by this Scheme should make use of the houses built for them. They should not use the houses for trading. They should be occupying the houses and by so doing, they will be making good use of the money they got from the Government to build the houses. If they are not prepared to live there, Government should not give them the money.

Many of the Federal Government African Staff built their own houses with Government loan and let them out. They continue to live in government quarters at Ikoyi, Apapa, Ikeja and so on.

I now come to the Nigeria Building Society. When the former general manager was there, he was very humane and was so good that nobody thought of him as an expatriate in this country.

In this connection, I am referring to Mr Campbell who has gone away. The present general manager is being chased about by the name he bears which is, "Wilde". He is wild and he takes everybody to court. He wants to liquidate everybody that owes fifty pounds or one hundred pounds.

If a man, having paid £3,000 out of a loan of £6,000, owes £50, his property which is worth £6,000 will be sold for £2,000 still leaving him with a debit balance of £1,000. From where is he going to get the difference of £1,000 when he could not pay £50. If this manager will not be humane with our people let him be removed. I would even advocate the reinstatement of Mr Campbell.

When I say the man bears the name "Wilde" and that he is really wild Members, must remember that everyone of us is at liberty to go to the Building Society and loan money. It is our money and we voted it. Why should a manager employed by us be chasing us about. I think the Government must take notice of this and do something. If it does not do something, we are going to bring it here by way of Motion and send this man away.

I beg to support.

**The Minister of Finance :** People should not make the mistake that the Building Society is the property or the babe of the Federal Government. It is not. So when the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) threatens that he is going to bring a Motion here and send Mr Wilde away so that he might not grow wild again, we must all begin to think seriously, after all, the hon. Member himself is always wild !

**Mr Odulana :** On a point of order, my proper name is Folorunso. That means "God's protection". I am always being protected by God. I am not wild.

**The Chairman :** Order ! That is a point of information.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** "Folorunso" may be to ask for God's protection but God's protection does not prevent a man from being wild. That is all I want to tell my wild Friend.

**Mr Odulana :** I think that the Minister should withdraw that statement. I am not wild. I am not Mr Wilde. I am "Folorunso."

**The Chairman :** Surely if somebody can go about in the name of Mr Wilde, then applying the name "wild" to someone does not necessarily mean that the man is wild.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I pray that the gods should protect you from "Mr Wild".

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) :** On a point of order, it is only the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana's*) pocket that could protect him from Mr Wilde.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** All I want to say is that the provision of money there is a sort of subvention to the Building Society. That does not mean that we own it. We are shareholders with the Commonwealth Development Corporation.

But if I may say this, it may not be convenient for defaulters to be put to court on default for one instalment. I agree with that. I think due warning should be given to them. But if we do not pay, as the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) says, as many as four or five instalments and we are not taken to court,

when will the money be recovered ? I shall however investigate the matter and see that we temper justice with mercy.

**Mr Ogunsanya :** A lot has been said about the Nigerian Building Society. I think that the Member should really have the opportunity of examining each of the cases to which he referred. There are some things that some of us have to deal with professionally but sometimes those things are not as easy as we think in this House. There are instances of bad luck but there are several others wherein the public funds have to be protected.

On the issue of the African Staff Housing scheme, I think that for a long time it has been possible for civil servants as an incident of their employment to obtain grants with which to build houses. In so far as they do not default in the repayment, I do not see how the Government can force them to stay in these houses, if they do not like to.

I feel that in spite of the fact that they are civil servants they should be treated in the same way as others are treated. This is so because it is an incidence of the service. I am very serious.

Speaking about the Lagos City Council, mention has been made about the £112,000 made as grant towards the cost of Capital Development project.

**Mr Odulana :** The hon. Member for Ikeja is misleading the House by saying that when Government officials are granted money to build houses on their own they can do whatever they like with it. I do not think that that is the regulation or the purpose for which the money is granted to them. They should live in the house and not trade with it.

**Mr Ogunsanya :** I think I remember what I said correctly. The hon. Member has been so engrossed in this useless controversy taking most of the time of the Yorubas and the Ibos, which will not serve us any good, that he can no longer understand when people are talking.

What I said really was that they should be allowed. I did not say they are allowed.

I was talking about the Lagos City Council's grant towards the cost of capital development



House of Representatives Debates

2141

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

9 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

2142

projects. I understand the Ministry of Finance as usual, is being too tight ; being *Ijebuic* is not wanting to release money.

When Members come to the Floor of the House and talk about the position of certain main roads in Lagos not being in order, I think it is the Minister of Finance that they have to blame, and not the Lagos Affairs Ministry or the Lagos City Council.

There have been various requests by the City Council for this Vote to be released. After all it is a grant. The City Council has to contribute the same amount granted by the Government. It is 50 per cent each way. If what the Government grants is £200,000, the City Council also has to provide £200,000. This will go, as the Member for Ahoada Central (*Mr Onwuchekwa*) said a while ago, to provide for some of the things Members asked for, time and again, on the Floor of this House. So the City Council is not to blame if there is anything amiss.

Year in and year out—I do not know what is wrong, but there again it is the fault of the Ministry of Finance—This item about the Central Lagos Sewerage Scheme has always been inserted to tantalise the people of Lagos and the Members of this House.

We want the provision to be made now. This item has been inserted again under Sub-head 104 but no provisions are made. It is inserted there for the fun of it. If the Government wishes to carry out this Central Lagos Sewerage Scheme, it should let us know and provide money for it.

A lot of reports have been made in this direction and on no occasion has the Federal Government come out to say that the reports have not been accepted. It has always been the same hurried business all the time and I think it is high time the Government should be bold enough to carry out the scheme or for goodness sake, to delete this item from the Estimates instead of the blank space remaining there.

There is also the question of the Metropolitan Area Housing Development. This forms part of the issues raised in his Excellency's Speech. We request that this should be speeded up and the fact that this development is intended

mainly for my hon. Friend the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah's*) men—the workers—it should be speeded up quickly.

Mention has been made about loans given towards the financing of the L.E.D.B. Programme. The Ministry of Lagos Affairs will always remember the good work started by the Federal Government under Dr K. O. Mbadiwe when he was termed "the slum Minister" and I do not think that anything done in this direction will be too much.

I have noticed that there is still £1,101,080 to be contributed by the Government. This is clearly set out in the Estimates. We would like the Federal Government to speed this work up so that there will be no need for hon. Members from the Regions mixing Falomo Village with Lagos.

While I am on this, may I say that we had a very gloomy incident at the Falomo Village some few weeks ago. The people staying at Falomo Village pay their rents and taxes and they have made a request that when they are being displaced, rather than give the plots to rich men like the Members of this House and big businessmen and so on, the type of houses in Surulere should be built right on the very site of Falomo for them to live in. No area is too posh for workers, to live in.

There are some uninhabited houses at South West Ikoyi built by the L.E.D.B. I do not know exactly what is happening. These houses have been there for two to three years.

I can hear the Minister of Finance saying that he has already said something to this effect. All the same, something should be done to these houses. If the Government does not want these houses to be there, they should be broken down. In any case, I wish to assure the Minister of Finance that we have got enough citizens in Lagos to move into these houses now if he has no one to keep there.

I beg to support.

**The Minister of Finance :** For the purpose of record, the Central Lagos Sewerage Scheme is not the responsibility of the Federal Government. As my hon. Friend has rightly said, what we will do in this case is to arrive

[THE MINISTER OF FINANCE]

at a 50-50 or a sort of "Shell BP" agreement. If it is so, let the Lagos City Council produce its own 50 per cent of the whole thing and start off the scheme. We are not running away.

By the way, now that the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) is asking us to spend money on Lagos, Lagos has become part of the Federal Government but when we say that Lagos belongs to all of us, he will say that it belongs to the West.

**Mr Ogunsanya** : On a point of order, I wish to say that the people did not at any time say that Lagos belongs to the West. Lagos is the capital and since the Federal Government must have a stay in Lagos, it must be prepared to pay for its stay.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Two Million, Eight Hundred and Sixteen Thousand, Four Hundred and Fifty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 631—Town Planning, be approved.

#### HEAD 632.—CO-OPERATIVES

*Forty-Six Thousand, Two Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 632—Co-operatives, approved.*

#### HEAD 633.—MISCELLANEOUS

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

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Nine Hundred and Seventy-One Thousand and Five Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 633—Miscellaneous, be approved.

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

**Mr S. D. Lar** (*Lowland East*) : Under this Head—Information, I would like—

**The Chairman** : Did I hear the hon. Member say Information? We are not on Information.

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (*Ibarapa*) : I notice here that there is no provision made for people going to Mecca this year. I think that people

will continue to go to Mecca and we should continue to provide for them. I do not know why the Federal Government should remove this item from the Estimates. The interest of Nigerians going abroad should be protected.

In fact, I want the Federal Government to remember that those of us who are Christians want to go to the Holy Land and I am saying emphatically that I want to go to Jerusalem next year. I feel that provision should be made for these visits.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (*Lagos Central*) : There is only one Holy Land and that is Mecca.

**The Chairman** : I think there exists a more appropriate forum for Moslem-Christian agreement on holiness.

**Mr Gbolagunte** : The second point I want to make is about the creation of a Social Centre for Nigerians in London. I notice that £5 has been put down as a token for this programme but for years now, nothing has been done. Our students in London are suffering very much.

Last year, we heard that a centre was bought but more centres should be created for our students especially those in London. At this point, the British Council should be praised for the good work it has been doing for Nigerian students. But for the British Council, our students could have been cut off from any type of social activity.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (*Lowland East*) : On a point of order, the Minister of State in charge of Ports (*Mr Mbazulike Amechi*) has taken away the attention of this House by distributing pamphlets to some Members, with the result that no one appears to be listening to the hon. Gentleman who is making a speech. The Minister has been busy all the while giving out these pamphlets to Members, and is, therefore, disturbing the House.

**The Chairman** : I am not sure whether pamphlets are being distributed, but, in any case, we have an established procedure for the distribution of pamphlets. There is no way of knowing whether Members are listening or not unless they themselves say that they are not listening.

**Minister of State for Ports** (Mr Mbazulike Amechi) : Members should not try to mislead this House deliberately. I have been sitting down here listening to the debates, and my Colleagues both to my right and to my left know that I did not distribute anything.

I do think that the freedom in this House should not be carried to a most irresponsible stage, particularly by people who, in normal circumstances, should not have been one's equal in life, except for this Parliament.

**The Chairman** : I think, as far as this House is concerned, everybody is equal. We all come here by vote and that is the qualification.

**Mr Gbolagunte** : The third point I am going to make is on the national stadium. This national stadium should be built this year. It is a pity that Nigerians should go abroad and be disgraced in sports, especially in football. If the national stadium is built, people will have very good ground for practising their games, and I am quite sure that we shall no longer be disgraced in sports if this is done. I am saying emphatically that the Minister should see to it that this stadium is built this year.

I beg to support.

**Mr U. O. Ayeni** (Afenmai North West) : I have two points to make on this Head 633 of the Capital Expenditure Estimates.

The first point concerns the social centres for Nigerians overseas. I think the Federal Government's attention has been concentrated on the social centre for Nigerian students in London to the utter neglect of the students in Ireland and Scotland. I think this Government should do something to have social centres for Nigerian students in Ireland and for Nigerian students in Scotland.

I hear an hon. Member say that social centres should also be established in Manchester for Nigerian students there. I think there are not very many Nigerian students in Manchester.

My second point is about the grants made to voluntary agencies. We have here a total of £50,000 to be spent out of the £80,000 estimated for the period 1962-68. I think this is a very welcome grant.

I do not think, however, that voluntary agencies want only grants from the Government. I did say here last year that in order to help the staff of voluntary agency schools, Government should, taking it from the Federal set-up, give them the sort of grants that will enable them to advance money to the teachers to buy cars for their use in the course of their duties.

I beg to support.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Nine Hundred and Seventy-One Thousand and Five Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 633—Miscellaneous, be approved.

#### HEAD 634.—INFORMATION

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I beg to move, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Ten Pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 634—Information, be approved.

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

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East) : On Information, I would like to say one or two things. I want to start off with the type of people working in the Ministry of Information. There is an aspect of duty there to which I would like to draw the attention of this House and the Minister of Information in particular.

In the Ibo section of their programme, there is a programme which is normally described as *Nnoko Ndi Igbo*. Within this programme, an arrangement is made whereby somebody who is supposed to be an expert on family matters is asked to give advice to people on how to build up very good families.

I think that, after all, since action speaks louder than voice, only people who have actually built good families are eligible to speak to the people on how to build good families. I really do not know how very pertinent it would be for somebody, for example, who is a divorcee to begin to advise people on how to build up a good family. It looks a bit odd. It is not proper for somebody who is not able to main-

[MR E. A. MORDI]

tain peace in his or her own family to come out on the radio to advise other on how to build their families. The Ministry of Information should, therefore, look into this aspect of their work.

I want to say also that, although I do not know what the feelings of Members are, but as far as I am concerned, I feel that there are certain aspects of this news reading which have to be considered by the Minister of Information. Some of the news readers do a lot of fumbling, so that people do not hear what they say. Besides, their pronunciation is so awkward. They just murder the English language in their attempt to read news. I think the Minister should make some provision whereby some of them will have to undergo some kind of special training. After all, the news that are being read over the radio are not supposed to be listened to by Nigerians only. We have recommended that we want the voice of Nigeria to be heard overseas—in America, in England, in Asia, in Japan and in all parts of the world. How awkward would it look for some of our news readers to read news in English language, while the English people in, say, England cannot understand it.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : On a point of order, Head 634 concerns domestic broadcasting and the hon. Gentleman has been speaking on international broadcasting and all that, which are not relevant to this Head.

**Mr Mordi** : Even though this Head deals only on domestic broadcasting, it must be admitted that the people who are in Nigeria and who are supposed to be the domestic citizens of this country, are not only of Nigerian nationality. The population is mixed so that we have the English and other nationals of the world. In that respect, it does not mean that people who are in Nigeria, and who are composed of various nationalities, must be fed with bad pronunciation and bad reading.

Finally, I want to say that there is a lot of discrimination in the Ministry of Information now. This must be said—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (Mr S. A. Yerokun)** : On a point of order, it has just been pointed out that this Head 634 deals with domestic broadcasting, and not with the Ministry of Information itself. The hon. Gentleman is now

criticising the Ministry of Information.

**Mr Mordi** : I am not limiting myself to domestic matters alone, and that was exactly what I was saying. What I am saying is that within the Ministry of Information, there is abundant evidence of nepotism, discrimination and tribalism. I want to say that there must be a commission of enquiry.

**Mr Yerokun** : On a point of order, what we are concerned with here is expansion of domestic broadcasting.

**Mr Mordi** : It is still under Information. The N.T.S. is under the Ministry of Information. I do not intend to raise unnecessary alarm here, but I want to say that a very serious commission of inquiry must be set up to look into the affairs of the N.T.S.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : It is interesting for my hon. Friend to suggest that a very strong commission of inquiry should be set up on £10 !

**Mr Mordi** : It is my view that something must be done about this, and that now. One has to look into, for example, the list of those who go to perform at the N.T.S. If anyone here has the opportunity to look at the list of the people who go to perform at the N.T.S., he will not help coming to the conclusion that there is an abundant evidence of nepotism and tribalism in the Nigerian Television Service.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana)** : On a point of order, the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) is very irrelevant. We are not discussing the Nigerian Television Service and if he tries to introduce tribalism into the debates, we will give him back. (*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman** : Order, order. May I say that under Head 634 there is only a vote of £10 on the expansion of domestic broadcasting. The Nigerian Television Service is there, but we are voting nothing for it. Please, may I appeal to the hon. Member to confine himself to the expansion of domestic broadcasting.

**Mr Mordi** : I am very grateful to you, Mr Chairman.

Finally, I want to say that we have bought a very big new transmitter and the purpose of this new transmitter is to help to make our radio broadcasts heard in all parts of the world.

House of Representatives Debates

2149

[Appropriation (1964-65)]

9 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

2150

The building of the transmitter has cost us £75,000 and I appeal to the Minister of Information to see that the voice of Nigeria is heard in all parts of the world.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved,* That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Ten Pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65, under Head 634—Information, be approved.

HEAD 636.—POLICE

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I beg to move, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Two Million, Six Hundred and Sixty-Three Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventy Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65, under Head 636—Police, be approved.

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

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I have it in command by His Excellency the President to give his recommendation to the consideration of the following Amendment, That an additional sum of £51,970 be provided under Sub-Head 201 to meet the cost of purchasing a helicopter and obtaining the necessary crew.

I beg to move.

**Mr Obande :** I beg to second.

**Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgba) :** I would like to crave your indulgence, Mr Chairman, to speak on the whole Head rather than to divide it into bits, as this will save the time of the House.

During the various debates on the Police Head of Estimates, Members from certain sides of this House had had occasion to make wild and unfounded allegations against both myself and my party in respect of the activities of the Police. I wish to say that both myself and members of my party, here and outside the House, are law-abiding.

We have every confidence in Police operations. We have every confidence in our Police. I wish it to be put on record that my party and myself are very sad about certain incidents which took place in Tiv Division, which resulted in the death of certain Policemen.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** On a point of order, I am sure that I gave room to my hon. Friend to clear himself, but I will certainly not allow him to break the Standing Orders of the House and then to discuss things that are not called for. What is called for under the Police in this case is Capital Expenditure.

My hon. Friend is long enough and experienced enough in Parliament to know that what he wants to discuss is generally under the Police, and this is Capital Expenditure. My hon. Friend should confine himself to the particular matters that we are discussing and not come and defend Tiv murder here.

**Mr Tarka :** I wish that the hon. Minister of Finance were put in my position. This is a very serious matter. I do not want to get out of order and that is why I sought the indulgence of Mr Chairman.

I wish to say that I would humbly pray the Federal Government to establish a Nigeria Police Station in Gboko and to provide adequate quarters for these Policemen. By the establishment of this Police detachment in Gboko, the Nigeria Police will be able to understand the entire political and social position in Tiv Division. They will then be in a position to know how they can carry out their responsibility in such a way that nobody will feel that they are taking sides with any political party.

Our Policemen have created a good record for themselves everywhere they have had occasion to serve outside Nigeria. Well, recently, as I said, what happened was as a result of misunderstanding. If Policemen were permanently stationed in Gboko with proper quarters and adequate provision for them, they would have understood the Tiv situation and there would have been no difficulties whatsoever. But when they have occasions to come on short visits when there is occasion for unusual situations that sometimes take place in that area, they misunderstand the people, they listen to all sorts of gossips and they tend to take sides.

What recently happened in Tiv Division is a disgrace to the good name of our Police because the Policemen in the place went to the extent of looting and killing innocent citizens.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** On a point of order, I must take exception to these statements.

**Mr Tarka :** But the Minister of Finance was not there.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** My hon. Friend was not there either.

**The Chairman :** Order, order. If there is any need for any point of order to be called, that can be done without engaging in dialogues.

**Mr Tarka :** As I said, the policemen should be permanently stationed in that place and should be given complete control of operations in respect of the maintenance of law and order. When a serious situation arises and it is put in the hands of N.A. policemen who are well-known for their political leanings, the tendency is that they pass the wrong information to the Nigeria Police Officers who are attached to the various sections of Police detachments in the areas concerned.

On another aspect, I would like to make a sincere appeal to the Federal Government that the activities of the Mobile Police in the Police set-up are appalling. It is therefore my intention to suggest that the Mobile Police should be scrapped. Rather than allow this arm of the Police to exist or to continue, we would prefer to have other arms of the Police enlarged with the powers that are provided for the extension of the Mobile Police activities.

I think that the question of copying the use of Mobile Policemen was done by the Federal Government as a result of what took place in what we now know to be Malaysia. Unfortunately, the prevailing condition at that time in that country was that there was said to be outside interference whereby certain political organisations were set up in a manner which was not conducive to the public good of that country. But here the Federal Government has the right to see to it that whenever there is an organisation which does not constitute itself in a manner that is for public good, such an organisation is scrapped.

I think that Members who have had occasions to make wild and unfounded allegations against us here will take note and stop such wild allegations. The best thing for them to do is to go to the place and study the situation. If they had studied the situation they would have been in a position to understand it better, otherwise, alternatively, they can come to some of us and ask what actually took place in the

various areas rather than trying to make allegations that would tend to implicate some of us and get people locked up on the eve of an important and vital election like this.

I think, Sir, that while I do not want to cast aspersions on the conduct of our Police who have had more than enough praise in this House, I wish it to be placed on record that the activities of the Mobile Police in Tiv Division was really very disgraceful and appalling.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I have a duty to protect the good name of our Police and to say that I am not prepared to enter into Tiv controversy. But all I need say is that—

**Mr Tarka :** But Tiv is part of Nigeria.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I say I do not want to. I know it is part of Nigeria. I am not quarrelling with the Tiv people. All I want to say is that the Police are peace officers and if the people do not want the Police Flying Squadron or policemen stationed in their area, all they have to do is to avoid making quarrels, because if they cause any riot or anybody is responsible for it, the policemen are bound to go there. That is the trouble. I am not apportioning blame to anybody, but the Police do not just go to anywhere and do all sorts of business or perform the type of things that my hon. Friend said they performed, which I must say is most untrue because we have no record that the Police went there to do looting.

**Mr Tarka :** That is because the Minister does not know.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** The Member for Jemgba (*Mr Tarka*) seems to know too much.

**Mr Tarka :** I know because I live in the place.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I base my point on the information which we have.

**Mr Tarka :** That is the information supplied by the Police themselves ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Yes. What else can we do ? Does the hon. Gentleman no longer want policemen in Nigeria ? People who have no trouble to make do not fear policemen. Policemen are not a danger to good work ; they are a danger to bad work,

All I want to say is this that, again, under this Head, we are not discussing the merits and demerits of the Police Force. All we are saying is that we are making provision for capital work to be done for them. I must say this that we all know that our Police, even abroad, have had credit to themselves and to this country and here in Nigeria they have performed their duties creditably and I commend them seriously to the approbation of this honourable House, and I move that the Question be now put.

**The Chairman :** I do hope that Members appreciate that the expenditure shown under this Head relates to the building of Police quarters. The money is voted for building staff quarters and equipment for Police, and so I will ask hon. Members to concentrate their efforts under this Head on Police quarters and equipment.

**Mr F. U. Ihe (Okigwi North East) :** Mr Chairman, under this Head we can easily see that there is a sum well over £400,000 set aside for the new additional buildings of Police Stations and staff quarters for Police, and I am supporting the Head provided that the Isuikwuato Police Station which has long been approved and which the Minister has promised to see that it is put up immediately fund is available, is built within this financial year.

Moreover, it is a pity that the D.S.P. at Okigwi has no quarters at all, and where the D.S.P. at Okigwi is staying does not belong to the Police at all. It does not befit the dignity and status of anybody who is a D.S.P., and now that the fund is available, I appeal to the Minister to see that we have quarters for the highest officer there.

I beg to support.

**M. Balang U. Barami (Biu South) :** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for giving me this opportunity to speak. We really appreciate what the Police have done for us, but I just want to speak a little bit about their leave. In the Army, when the soldiers work for one year they have leave of about one month, but as for the Police they only have two weeks. I am saying that this period of two weeks is too short for them. Since we appreciate what they have done for us, they should have a month's leave every year.

Secondly, they get transferred every time from one place to another. As a result, their children do not have adequate education. If a constable is transferred and his children go with him, these children do not have proper schooling. They find it very difficult to have proper schooling and proper education. Therefore, I appeal to the Minister to look into this matter seriously.

**Mr B. A. Ajayi (Ekiti South East) :** This Government should be congratulated for trying to put a lot of money into the capital expenditure for the Police. The duty of the Police is a very rigorous and arduous one. They go out on patrol, do hard work and then come back to recreate. In the past policemen were just provided with single rooms, and that in itself is very inadequate.

One room is not adequate for a policeman and it must be noted that policemen, as a rule, live in only one room each. I think the Government should do all it can not only to make the police quarters convenient for the present but must also think about the possible condition of things in the years to come. For this reason I suggest that we should have well-planned quarters for the junior and senior staff in the Police Establishment.

**Mr U. O. Ayeni (Afenmai North West) :** There are some points to which I wish to call the attention of the House. The first of these points concerns the wireless station and police quarters at Ekpoma. I would like to point out that the sum of about £12,208 was voted for the construction of these two offices in 1962-63 but up till now nothing has been done in this direction. All we find there is that some sort of local buildings are being connected together and there is no doubt that these buildings cannot stand the test of time. The only sort of buildings that can last any length of time are concrete buildings. In my opinion what the Government is trying to put up at Ekpoma will not be of any use at all.

Another point is that there is an old dilapidated police station at Ubiaja, the headquarters of Ishan Division. If one pays a visit to this place one will discover that the buildings in the Police Station look like *bukas* or little huts and one would have to bend very low before one could get into any of these buildings. I think that these two places need urgent improvement.

[MR U. O. AYENI]

My next point concerns the setting aside of the sum of £432,000 for the expansion of police stations in the Mid-West area. I hope that the Government is not going to concentrate all its attention on expanding old police stations but should also think of where these policemen will live. The situation in which policemen live in private houses does not make for efficiency, especially when the private houses in which these policemen live are widely scattered and when the particular area can be termed as a rural area.

I beg to second.

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South) : In supporting this Head, I would like to bring to the notice of this House a statement I made here last year in which I said that our Government is trying to create a situation where the rich are made richer and the poor made poorer. To buttress that statement I would like to say that the condition of the police in Nwigwe in Ikot Ekpene Division is very deplorable and I am asking the Minister in charge of the Police to send somebody to inspect the police station there. This police station is in a completely dilapidated condition. White ants have completely destroyed the house and within a short time the Government will find it difficult to put the building in a good order. I therefore appeal to the Minister in charge of the Police to see that a new permanent charge office is built and that the houses wherein the policemen live are improved.

I beg to second.

**Chief D. A. Ogunleye** (Ede-Ejigbo) : I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of State in charge of the Police to Oshogbo Police Station. This police station has been made a police headquarters now and is being manned by a Senior Superintendent of Police ; policemen at Oshogbo to-day still live in the houses wherein their counterparts lived about ten years ago.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I beg to move, That the question be now put.

**The Chairman** : I do appreciate the Minister's point of view in trying to get the business done for the convenience of Parliament, but I feel that there are still many

Members wishing to talk on this Head. We must allow one or two more speakers before the Question is put.

**Mr Ogunleye** : I want to ask that one police station be built for the Chief at Sapele.

The policemen at Oshogbo, as I said earlier, still live in quarters where their counterparts lived about ten years ago and though we now have about two hundred policemen in the place no new quarters have been built with the result that we now have a sort of overcrowding there.

**Mr S. A. Lana** : On a point of information, a new police station is going to be built at Oshogbo and I think the contract has already been awarded.

**Mr Ogunleye** : I think that the earlier that is done the better.

Another point which I want to raise is that policemen should be allowed to undergo refresher courses very frequently so as to make their promotions quicker than it is now. I think the whole House will agree with me that there are just too many segments on the promotion route of policemen now. For instance when—

**The Chairman** : This is Capital Expenditure.

**Mr Ogunleye** : I also want to impress it upon the mind of the Minister in charge of Police that we need a police post at Iwo in Oshun Division.

**The Minister of State** (Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju) : Iwo is a rural area.

**Mr S. O. Fajimi** (Iwo West) : The Minister in charge of the Police—*Oga Olopa*—is not conversant with Iwo and has probably not been there. Iwo is a big town and the population is about 200,000. It is bigger than Igbomina town. The Minister is ignorant of what Iwo is like.

**Mr Ogunleye** : When I mentioned Iwo I knew what I was talking about. I am not from Iwo, but I know that it is a befitting thing for Iwo to have a police station now because Iwo is bigger than Ilorin and Sapele put together. I therefore urge that a police post is quite necessary for Iwo because recently



there have been lots of political developments there and it will help a great deal if a police post is built there.

**Chief R. A. Orok** (Abak North West) : I rise to support the provisions under this Head of the Estimates. In doing so, however, I would like to call the attention of the Minister in charge of the Police to the condition of Ikot-Okoro police station which has often been called, on the Floor of this House, Orok police station.

I was told sometime ago that this police station was going to be reconstructed but this has not been done. I am appealing to the Minister that whenever the reconstruction is going to be done, and I hope it will be done sooner than later, it should be done very properly.

The policemen at this station are doing very good work and yet they have no police quarters at all. They live all about in the compounds of the townspeople. How can they do their work efficiently under this sort of condition ?

The police establishment is not one that should be neglected by our Government because we place a high reliance on them for the maintenance of law and order, in this country. But for the police we shall not be free to move about in this country because of highway men and night marauders. I therefore appeal to the Government to see that the police station at Ikot-Okoro is quickly reconstructed.

I beg to second.

**Mr T. I. Etukudo** (Eket West) : I am very happy that the Minister in charge of the Police is here now. I have repeatedly approached the Minister, as he should well remember, about the deplorable condition of the police quarters in Eket. I do not know whether the Minister of State for the Police is listening as I have repeatedly approached him about the deplorable condition of police quarters in Eket. These houses were built many years ago and they are so bad now that even the Police are afraid the buildings might come down one day. In order to allay the fears of these people I normal appeal to the Minister to construct new buildings for them.

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh** (Ishan West) : I have only one observation to make and—

**Mr S. O. Kolade** (Oyo South) : On a point of order, Sir, the Member for Ishan West (*Chief Dame-Oboh*) is a carpet crosser ; and when somebody has crossed from this side to the other side—

**The Chairman** : Order. You are wasting our time.

**Chief Dame-Oboh** : The Member for Oyo South (*Mr Kolade*) is not ashamed of himself. I have left him and others alone in their Yoruba party. He has also crossed and he has no moral right to call me a carpet crosser.

This morning when the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister was answering some questions raised by Chief Oronsaye—

**Mr Akubakar Isandu** : The speech of the Member for Ishan West (*Chief Dame-Oboh*) is totally irrelevant. Does he want us to believe that he has finished spending the money with which he was bought in addition to the car given to him ?

**Chief Dame-Oboh** : The Parliamentary Secretary is also a carpet crosser and he left the Action Group before me.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments told this House that he did not receive money. He does not deny being a carpet crosser, but what he is saying is that he was not bought. He is talking about those people who were sold and bought—marketable commodities.

**Chief Dame-Oboh** : I must warn those people who continue to call me carpet crossers to desist from doing so. I have left the Action Group for the—

**The Chairman** : Order ! If the Member for Ishan West has no more points to make— (*Loud interruptions*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Two Million, Seven Hundred and Fifteen Thousand, Seven Hundred and Forty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 636.—Police, be approved.

*And it being 5.45 p.m. the Chairman left the chair to report progress and ask leave to sit again.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report progress, to sit again—  
Tomorrow.

### ADJOURNMENT

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

#### MORGAN SALARIES AND WAGES COMMISSION

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North): I wish to raise a matter which should give this honourable House and, in fact, the nation, a great concern. I want to refer to the Morgan Commission which was appointed after the strike of September 1963, to probe the claims of workers for increased pay and general improvement in their working conditions.

From the word go, we of the N.C.N.C. wholeheartedly supported the claims of the workers. The Commission is now six months old and the delay in publishing its report is creating a state of nervous tension among the working class movement. The report should therefore be published without any further delay.

I think I am right in saying that we expect the Commission to meet the demands of the workers, otherwise Government should, in its final conclusions, make further improvements so that we may have a contented working population whose co-operation, we must admit, matters so much to the industrial peace and prosperity of this country. Nothing short of revolutionary changes—

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: On a point of order, Sir, I do not know what the Minister of Establishments has to say, but I would like to point out that the statement of the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) is completely out of order. This is not a matter to be raised on Adjournment, especially when he is advocating for things about which he has not thought of. If he wants to campaign for himself in the Trade Union field he should go to *Oko-Awo* and not here.

**Mr Mbah**: I have the permission of the Minister of Establishments to raise this question, and if the Minister of Finance wants to be a Jack of all trades, that is his business.

I was saying that nothing short of revolutionary changes in wage rates and service conditions can satisfy the workers, and the

Government should ensure that prices are stable otherwise the whole exercise may fail.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East): I must say quite frankly that this is anticipating the report of the Morgan Commission, and under Standing Order 26 (3), I am not quite sure that this is appropriate.

**Mr Speaker**: The ground for matters to be raised on Adjournment covers a very wide field. It is difficult to make a ruling in this respect until one is sure that actually the motives behind it do not conform with the practice of the House. Perhaps Members will allow us to hear a little more about what he is saying before I can make a decision.

**Mr D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): On a point of order, the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) says that the Minister of Establishments has agreed to reply to his question. The Morgan Commission is purely a labour matter. It is not for the Minister of Establishments to reply, and the Minister of Labour is not here.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: As the Leader of this House I insist that the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) is trying to incite workers on the Floor of this House. He should not do that. He is planning a revolution. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker**: Order! I do not know whether the Minister of Finance means that the Government is not ready to give an answer to the Member for Owerri North. If the Government is ignoring it then obviously the Member for Owerri North would discontinue, but if the Government is ready to give an answer he should continue.

**The Minister of Establishments** (Mr J. C. Obande): As far as the question of the Morgan Commission is concerned, my Ministry is responsible. But I have now noticed some controversy over the whole show, and if there will be some misunderstanding I shall withdraw my answer.

**Mr Speaker**: Order! I would like to remind the Government that certain explosive matters really require clarification otherwise they might lead to some inconvenience unnecessarily. It is better to get such things voiced out here in order to get remedies by the Government once and for all.

**Mr Mbah** : The Trade Unions have deplored the clever but indiscreet attempt of the hon. Minister of Finance to influence the Morgan Commission Report by repeating in his Budget Speech Government's case against the dangers of wage concessions when he knew that all sides to the dispute had closed their submissions to the Commission.

In the circumstances, I am calling on the Government to make a statement.

**Mr Abba Yola** (Wudil) : On a point of order, the Commission was not appointed in this House. Therefore, the subject of the Commission should not be brought into this House for discussion.

**Mr Obande** : It has been reported in the Press, earlier this month, that the Eastern Wing of the J.A.C. were critical of the Federal Minister of Finance for including in his Budget Speech a warning to the Members of this House of the possible danger which a wage increase might cause to the country's finances. It was reported that this body regarded the Minister's words as a dangerous attempt calculated to prejudice the Report of the Morgan Commission. I have also read that the Northern Federation of Labour has expressed similar criticism.

I must confess that I can see little merit in criticism of this type. The Minister would be doing less than his duty if, in his Budget Speech he did not explain to hon. Members of this House all the financial problems and difficulties which the nation may have to face in the forthcoming year. I think you will agree that it would be the height of irresponsibility for a Minister of Finance or the Members of this House to shut their eyes to such matters and pretend that they do not exist. It behoves any Government worthy of the name to keep this House fully informed about our finances so that there can be greater understanding in the constituencies of what we are attempting to do.

The Morgan Commission is still hard at work writing its Report which is expected to be completed before the end of April. It is an independent body composed of eminent men, and I consider it a serious underestimation of both their status and ability for anyone to imagine for one moment that they will not carry out their very arduous task with complete objectivity and impartiality.

The Governments of the Federation have already had the opportunity of making their views fully known to Mr Justice Morgan and his colleagues, and this they have done. It, therefore, seems a little pointless for anyone to suggest that the Government is seeking to influence the Commission unfairly by citing in Parliament facts and figures which are no doubt already known to the Commission.

N.B.C. NORTH TRANSMITTER

**M. Ibrahim Muku** (Bida West) : I should be grateful if the Minister of Information would make a statement on the possibility of replacing the present transmitter used by the N.B.C. in the North with a more powerful one.

The Northern Region is vast and large, and it requires a very powerful transmitter to enable listeners from any part of the Region and in other countries to pick up clear news items. Everyone in this honourable House knows as I do that the radio is one of the best means of Education. It is also the quickest and surest means by which the people in the remotest areas of this country are brought in touch with current affairs. Above all, it is by the use of the radio that we can follow up the developments of this country especially at this time when the Six-Year Development Plan is being vigorously pursued.

It is only a pity that the present transmitter used by the N.B.C. in the Northern Region which, in fact, is the largest and most important Region of this Federal Republic of Nigeria is not heard clearly beyond the Northern Region. The reception is even poorer outside Nigeria. The commonest thing heard from the North Regional transmitter is always an apology for a break in transmission.

As I have said before, the Northern Region is vast and large, and, therefore, the Region should have a transmitter more powerful than the one in use at present.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information** (Mr S. A. Yerokun) : In its Development Plan the N.B.C. has provided for the expansion of domestic broadcasting and improvement in the strength of transmitters used all over the Federation subject, of course, to the availability of funds.

[MR S. A. YEROKUN]

It is, therefore, hoped that before the Plan comes to an end the point raised by the Member for Bida West (M. Ibrahim Muku) will be adequately covered.

And it being 6 p.m., Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 5 (7).

Adjourned accordingly at 6 p.m.

Mr Ibrahim Muku (Bida West): I should be grateful if the Minister of Information would state a statement on the possibility of replacing the present Government by the N.P.C. in the North with a more powerful one.

The Northern Region is vast and fertile, and it requires a very powerful Government to enable it to develop. It is one of the richest areas in the country and it is also the greatest source of labour. It is also the greatest source of revenue. It is also the greatest source of labour. It is also the greatest source of revenue. It is also the greatest source of labour. It is also the greatest source of revenue.

It is only a few days before the general election will be held in the Northern Region. It is only a few days before the general election will be held in the Northern Region. It is only a few days before the general election will be held in the Northern Region.

I have said before, the Northern Region is vast and fertile, and it requires a very powerful Government to enable it to develop.

The Government's policy towards the Northern Region is to develop it as a self-sufficient area. It is to develop it as a self-sufficient area. It is to develop it as a self-sufficient area.

In the circumstances, I am calling on the Government to make a statement. Mr Abba Tola (Zaria): On a point of order, the Commission was not appointed in this House. Therefore, the subject of the Commission should not be brought into this House for discussion.

The Commission: It has been reported in the Press that the Commission was not appointed in this House. Therefore, the subject of the Commission should not be brought into this House for discussion.

I must confess that I am not quite sure in my mind if the Commission was appointed in this House. Therefore, the subject of the Commission should not be brought into this House for discussion.

The Commission: It has been reported in the Press that the Commission was not appointed in this House. Therefore, the subject of the Commission should not be brought into this House for discussion.

*House of Representatives Debates*

2165

[*Ministerial Statement*]

10 APRIL 1964

[*Appropriation (1964-65) Bill*]

2166

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

*Friday, 10th April, 1964*

*The House met at 9 a.m.*

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

NIGERIANISATION OF THE ECONOMY

**The Prime Minister :** My attention has been called to a recent speech made on the Floor of this House by a Minister in my Government. In the course of his speech, the Minister advocated the Nigerianisation of certain sectors of the economy, and in particular referred to retail and wholesale trade, to banking, to insurance and to road transport.

It is evident from newspaper comments and reports that the speech in question has been widely interpreted as an expression of the Federal Government's policy and that it foreshadows nationalisation of these sectors of the economy. In view of the considerable publicity given to the speech, and of the inferences which have been drawn from it, I have decided that it is necessary for me to state in public that Government's policy remains unchanged.

Believing, as we do, in an economy in which free enterprise and private capital can play their full part, we welcome the investment of private foreign capital in productive areas of the economy, and we recognise that the investor is entitled to look for a reasonable return from his investment. We acknowledge the role which foreign firms have played over the years in building up the nation's commerce and, in more recent years, by their contribution to the establishment of many industries.

We have never concealed our belief that Nigerian enterprise and Nigerian capital may play, and must be enabled to play, an ever-increasing part in the economic life of the nation. It must be obvious that no Nigerian can be content so long as any major sector of the economy is controlled by foreigners. But we are realists, and we say that so long as there is a dearth of Nigerian capital, so long must there be opportunity for foreign capital in Nigeria. We do not seek the withdrawal of foreign capital from any area of the economy

before Nigerian enterprise is able to replace it. When the time for withdrawal has come, due notice will be given.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1964-65) BILL

(SEVENTH ALLOTTED DAY) : CONSIDERED IN

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES

HEAD 637.—GENERAL

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Five Million, Forty-Two Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 637—General, be approved.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Mr S. A. Lana) : I beg to second.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central) : I have only a few comments to make. In developing the nation we should try to see that every part of the country is developed. There is no need giving preferential treatment to big cities and towns. Social amenities, especially electricity, must be given to the rural areas. This is very important because it is one of the important ways by which we can retain our population in the rural areas. We must take attractions to these rural areas otherwise they will be forced to go to bigger towns and thus leave the rural areas thinly populated.

In this respect, I have in mind the very important fact that in my constituency, Awka Central, our people have the desire and the eagerness to help the Government in every way possible by remaining in their rural areas. But the people also want to be helped by the Government so that they can raise their standard of living up to that which obtains in the townships and develop their towns in such a way that whatever they have to do they do it to a point of perfection.

I have in mind this question of Awka smithing whereby we have developed our talent in iron works. There is no reason why we should go to Poland, Czechoslovakia or

[MR MUOJEKE]

Russia to import arms and ammunition when we know that we can manufacture them in Awka Division. There is no point importing foreign arms but rather we should go to Awka and exploit those hidden talents.

**Mr E. C. Akwiwu** (Orlu South East): Is my hon. Friend not exaggerating his knowledge of the people of Awka? Does he forget that the thing started in Orlu Division?

**Mr Muojeke**: The hon. Member knows that Orlu people migrated from Awka and naturally they inherited their talent from Awka.

Concluding this point, I would add that our people are agitating for the establishment of foundry works at Awka. When our important men visited our Division we gave them presents of these Awka goods. Also, one sees that in almost all the houses of most of the important 'timbers' in the country the doors are gates manufactured by the Akwa people. Therefore, the Government should go and develop these talents in Awka by establishing an iron industry there.

I must also report that a town called Ndikelionwu has an abundant deposit of iron. We want the Government to go and utilise this iron deposit by going to this town to ascertain the quality, quantity and the extent of this important mineral, iron ore deposit and subsequently to set up there an industry that will match the discovery of the iron deposit. I hope that the Minister of Finance would see that an iron industry is established in this Ndikelionwu town.

As I have said earlier on, the establishment of industries must be an overall establishment. There is no need to favour one part of the country at the expense of other parts, especially the rural areas. I think I have exhausted my points.

I beg to support.

**Mr M. A. Ajasin** (Owo South): I want to speak on the National Universities Commission under this Head. I want to commend the work of the National Universities Commission first appointed some time last year by the Federal Government for the good work which that Commission has done to produce its recommendation to the Federal Government. This recommendation, I see, has been accepted by the Federal Government and the Government has even issued a White Paper on it.

In the recommendation of the Commission, the Regional Universities will have 50 per cent of their capital expenses borne by the Federal Government but Lagos and Ibadan Universities will have their expenses borne 100 per cent because these two universities belong to the Federal Government. According to what has been accepted by the Federal Government, 30 per cent of the recurrent expenditure of the Regional Universities—University of Nigeria, Nsukka and the University of Ife—will be borne by the Federal Government, except that the Ahmadu Bello University will have 50 per cent instead of 30 per cent. It is said that this is because about 75 per cent of the students transferred to the Ahmadu Bello University from the former Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology are people from outside the North, they are from the Southern Provinces. So, for the next five years 50 per cent instead of 30 per cent of the recurrent expenditure of the Ahmadu Bello University will be borne by the Federal Government, whereas those of the other universities will be 30 per cent. Of course, we cannot quarrel with that because it is only for the next five years. After this quinquennium, there will be a revision of the policy.

What I would suggest to the Government and what the Commission should take up is that the whole expenses of the higher education of university should be borne by the Federal Government. Actually, it is because of the expenses borne by the Regional Governments that Members have been agitating and advocating in this House that education should be the responsibility of the Federal Government. So, if the Federal Government can bear the expenses of the universities the secondary and the primary education expenses will be borne by the Regional Governments. They will then have sufficient funds to face the expenses of these two arms of education. So, I am suggesting that after this first five years, the Federal Government should take up the whole responsibilities of the universities' expenses.

There is something more I want to say about this Head and that is that the National Universities Commission should be a permanent body. It should not be just an *ad hoc* body appointed for a time and then dissolved. It should be a permanent body to oversee the activities of these universities. This is necessary because

where the Federal Government is spending its money there should be an overseer to see that the money is properly spent.

I remember what happened recently in one of these universities in the country. It was in the University of Ife that the only Nigerian Professor was summarily dismissed, as it were, from his post and some of the senior lecturers in the place in sympathy with him resigned their appointment and left the university. To me, that situation was brought about by the question of politicians interfering with the affairs of the University.

A university should be autonomous so that professors and lecturers should be able to express their opinions freely. They should hold any political opinion which they feel they should hold, and the same thing should apply to the students. They should not be persecuted by politicians. In a university, professors should be able to teach and carry out their research unmolested by politicians. The same thing should apply to the undergraduates who should be able to study in the universities without any interference by politicians. To be able to restore man's dignity in a university, people should be able to think, speak and act freely within a university.

I would suggest that the National Universities Commission should see to it that if there is any of these universities not carrying on its activities properly and in a way conducive to the progress and development of the country, the grants to such a university should be stopped.

In a university like the one at Ife, where the Pro Vice-Chancellor of that university enunciated that the credo of that university should be to support the government of the day, I think something should be done for I think this is very bad. The university should be a free place where people can express opinions. Any good government should be able to take criticism.

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South):** On a point of order, the Gentleman speaking is very experienced and a very respectable man in this House, but the way he is speaking now seems to me to be going beyond what is right.

If the university will not take instructions from the government, and it wants to stand on its own, the professors must not dabble in politics. They should not ask for aid from

the government either. When the professors begin to dabble into politics and to take advantage of their position to teach the students politics, then they have taken to politics and should be ready for the consequences.

**Mr Ajasin :** The government should be able to take criticism. They have the Ministry of Information to counter anything that is not correct. The government should not be so touchy and intolerant of criticism, and it should not be worried about criticism of people.

If we look at other parts of the world—since we are connected with the British way of doing things, we shall see that in the London School of Economics, we have communists and all sorts of people. So it is in Oxford, Cambridge and the London universities. We have not only Conservative professors, but also members of the Labour Party and the Liberal Party, Communists and all sorts of people. They do not try to drive them out because they hold opinions different from those of the government of the day. So, I am advocating that these politicians should not worry these professors in the university, and it is my suggestion that this National Universities Commission should be able to see to such affairs in the universities.

Secondly, I want to mention the appeal made sometime ago that the President of the Republic as the Chancellor of the University of Nigeria Nsukka, and the Prime Minister, as the Chancellor of the University of Ibadan, should be able to look into the affairs of the University of Ife in order to ensure that the dismissed professor and lecturers are reinstated.

It is not an easy thing to find lecturers and professors. They are rare commodities, and we should not do away with the ones we have just like that. These are my observations on this matter.

The next point I want to speak about is that of our embassies and office accommodation for them overseas. It is good to have good buildings for our representatives abroad, but they also should do their work properly. Some of them are not doing so.

Recently, towards the end of last year, and at the beginning of this year, in Canada, at Montreal and Toronto, Africa week was observed by students, and these students wrote to our embassy in the United States asking for exhibits and such other things by which they

[MR AJASIN]

could publicise Nigeria. But the embassy did not even have the courtesy of replying to these students. This, I think, is not good.

The students are also ambassadors of this country abroad, and they should be helped whenever they ask for exhibits to present Nigerian culture, arts and crafts on such occasions. On such occasions, the Ghana embassy not only sent exhibits, but also sent officials to give talks to the people about Ghana. Our own government should be able to do that. Our embassies should not be there only to receive Ministers on visits alone. They should care for the students and respond to their letters.

I beg to support.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I share the views expressed by the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) about the integrity, and the general comportment of and the respect which we have for the Member for Owo South (*Mr Ajasin*). But I cannot agree with the Member for Owo South on his promise this morning when he tried to advocate something which would be a one way traffic.

He is an experienced and respected teacher who has been in that field for long, and he should know that the ordinary law of employment is that if there is disagreement between the employer and the employee, the employee must give way. He knows that he himself had disagreed with the proprietors of his own college—the Imade College. He had to leave in order to found his own college. He did not stay put. That is the choice of a gentleman.

Nobody is objecting to professors doing politics. The Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) is a politician and he is still in his university. Dr Onabamiro, Dr Chike Obi and others are politicians as well as Regional Legislators. When one is put in a position where one disagrees with the owners of the institution, one either decides to go and do something else, or remain. The professors in the university of Ife decided to go. Who is going to beg them to come back? Nobody.

What we object to is the indoctrination of students by professors using their advantageous position for turning the university into a political platform of their choice. They teach students how to demonstrate and about socialism.

Dare any professor do that in Moscow? They will hang him overnight.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) :** The essence of a university education is freedom of thought and freedom of expression by (both the faculties and the students. It is assumed that a student is an adult. In the schools, we can talk of adolescence and the protection of adolescence from the ideas of the adults. But in the university, everybody is free.

**Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) :** We must not allow the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) to mislead the House. A professor is supposed to be neutral and objective, but when a professor turns a university into a political forum, then something must be done.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I was going to say that I might congratulate the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*), my Awo-Omama friend, for the success of his students this year, but that is all I can say to his credit. Now that he wants to dabble into this particular issue, I must tell him that when he founds his university at Awo Omama, he may turn it into a political platform and see whether many parents would like to send their children there.

We are trying to build a nation, and we must see to it that parents do not send their children to these universities to be indoctrinated. We must not look at only one side of the picture. If I send my child to a university, the purpose is for the child to learn. When he or she qualifies, he or she can take to anything of his or her choice.

I will not allow my Awo-Omama friend to go and indoctrinate my child and then persuade him or her by any devious means to go and stay on his own political platform.

What is more? These Professors and Lecturers do not do the type of politics that people like Laski did in the London School of Economics, because that man had a philosophy of his own and he propounded it. The point is that these people were doing party politics. They were supporting the party of the Member for Owo South (*Mr Ajasin*). If they were not supporting the party of the hon. Gentleman, he would ask that they be sent out.

I hear an hon. Member asking for the name of the party of the Member for Owo South, his party is Action *Buruku*.



**Mr Ajasin :** On a point of information, that is not correct. Professors and Lecturers can express their own views outside the University but not in the University. And, undergraduates are mature people.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** How can an undergraduate be mature? If they are undergraduates, they are not mature. They are being brought up to be mature. They will be mature when they qualify and take their degrees.

Someone is asking about those of them who do post-graduate courses. Post-graduate students are mature and responsible people. How are undergraduates mature? Mature to come and demonstrate? People from responsible homes do not go to school to go and demonstrate; they go to school to learn.

**Mr J. D. Odeunmi (Egba North) :** On a point of information, is the Minister of Finance saying that *undergraduate* means *immaturity*?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** They are synonymous.  
*Mr Mbah rose—*

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I am not yielding.

As regards the question of letter-writing in Embassies, I want to assure my hon. Friend that all our Embassies overseas take upon themselves to look after the welfare of our students everywhere. The hon. Gentleman can check up. As a matter of fact, that is one of their primary duties; but if there are students who go out of bounds then the Embassies cannot help them.

I must say that I can personally testify that they look after them, they do everything for them but when some of them stowaway and begin to put their responsibilities on other people then the Embassies cannot help them.

**Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) :** In contributing to this debate, may I first of all, comment on Sub-head 65—New House for Prime Minister.

In the 1962-68 Development Programme there is £10 voted for the new house for the Prime Minister. In the 1964-65 Capital Estimates, the balance to complete the building is still £10. I am wondering if the Government is serious about building a new house for the Prime Minister.

May I warn that when a site for the new house is to be chosen, it must be in a place which will make for secrecy. The site of the present Prime Minister's house is in a crowded area of Lagos, there are many people who can subvert the Government staying around. I wonder why we should allow some Embassies and High Commissions to have their houses near our Prime Minister who is the embodiment of everything we have in this country.

If the Government is serious about building a new house for our Prime Minister they should look for a good site so that the Prime Minister can have some secrecy. At the moment, if somebody is going to the Prime Minister's house, he can tell a lie that he is going to the house of the Minister of Finance, the Yoruba Tennis Club or the Island Club. People can even stand in the Island Club and see how people come and go into the Prime Minister's house and it will be very difficult for anybody to question them. People can stay around and see which personalities come to see the Prime Minister. They can connect the people going to see the Prime Minister with some ideas in their minds and guess what is going on. If the person standing around is a diplomat the next thing is to send to his home Government.

I submit that the new site to be chosen should be far away.

One hon. Member is asking that it be built somewhere in the East. The Prime Minister can come to the East if he chooses, but his house should be in Lagos.

May I say also that when we vote money for the houses of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, the Government should also consider voting some few pennies for the houses of hon. Members. I remember there was £15,000 voted to recondition the floor of Members' flats at Victoria Island last year. I cannot see anything in the Estimates any more about this and nothing has been done since this money was voted.

I think it is a laudable effort to buy offices for our Embassies overseas and this should be the practice. There may be cases where a country is not willing to give approval for such purchases. I am of the opinion that paying rent in a foreign country to house our Embassy depletes our resources. In some cases, we may find that paying rent for three or four

[Dr OKEKE]

years will cover what we would have paid if we had bought the building outright. The Government should think seriously of buying houses for our Embassies abroad so that in the long run, all our Embassies abroad will be owned by this Government.

The last point I wish to comment upon is on the money voted for the expenses of the Conference of Heads of African and Malagasy States. It cannot be said too loudly in this honourable House that he who pays the piper must call the tune. When we spend so much for African unity, I think our friends, the brother states of the Organisation of African Unity, should be persuaded in the interest of equity and fairness that the Secretariat of the Organisation of African Unity should be sited in Nigeria. For practical reasons we have to contribute a lot to the finances of the O.A.U., no matter what we say about it. I think that if we have to pay so much because we are the largest country in Africa south of the Sahara, member states of the O.A.U. should concede to Nigeria the Secretariat of the O.A.U. I think it will be in the interests of the other African states too.

I beg to support.

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South)** : In contributing to the Debate on Capital Expenditure for Head 637—General—I would like to comment on the New Parliament Building. There is no doubt that this Parliament whose life will expire at the end of this year has done a lot for this country. It was during the life of the present Parliament that independence was gained for this country and in the midst of it, this country attained its republican status.

However, this Parliament will suffer one little deficiency in not erecting the new Parliament Building for which nothing has been voted this year. A Committee was set up to look into this proposal for a new Parliament Building. There was an Assistant Director of Public Works who was specially promoted and charged with the responsibility of doing the preliminary investigations and designing of the new Parliament. I do not know whether this gentleman is being paid merely to retain him in the office. I do not know how far the recommendations of this committee have been effected.

I am glad the Prime Minister is here this morning to listen to this. I do not think it is good that nothing has been voted for this new

Parliament in this Capital Expenditure for 1964-65. For one thing, the Committee which was set up made some recommendations. There were Ministers of State in the Committee, under the Chairmanship of our indefatigable Speaker of this House. The Committee was represented from all sides of the country. They made a specific recommendation that if an amount of over three, four, five, six to seven million pounds must be spent on the building of a new Parliament, then we must be able to send some people abroad to see what is going on in other countries.

There is no doubt we have sent this Assistant Director charged with the responsibility for the design to some places, but the Committee said that we cannot take a decision on the evidence of this single individual. It therefore made certain recommendations to the Government, and I am glad the Minister of Finance is here and he can reply to it. I see the Minister shaking his head, but he certainly must reply to it. We do not want to build a Parliament like the Senate Building which was built not quite ten years ago and yet it has outlived its usefulness.

When it was built as the House of Representatives there was no foresight in the building of it. A house built not quite ten years ago cannot accommodate people now. The House of Parliament in England was built several scores of years ago and it can still accommodate the Members there to-day. What I am trying to say is that if and when this Parliament is to be built, a lot of foresight should be put into it.

We cannot continue spending the money of this country in a way that will not befit the status of this country. If we build the House any time we must take into consideration a period of about five hundred years to come.

The Minister of Finance says that by that time I shall have died. I want to say that fortunately people in my family live long. My mother is ninety years this year. I do not think there is anybody who can claim that age here. My grand father died at the age of 127 years. So, I have a lot of years yet before me.

If you look at the Cabinet Office that was built not quite five years you will see that it has outlived its usefulness. How many Ministers are accommodated there? The Prime Minister himself is not even using it. If at the time it was being built consideration for

House of Representatives Debates

2177

[Appropriation (1964-65)

10 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

2178

a period of fifty years was put into it, it would have still been all right. The Ministers there are only the Minister of Defence, the Minister for the Navy, the Minister for the Army. They are the people there, and may be the Minister for the Police also.

If we build a house we must think of many years to come. We have no money to squander these days. The project for this new Parliament and the investigation and designing of it should be under this Head. Since it is not there, I think the Government is not pulling its weight.

We want people to be sent abroad to see what type of Parliament is built in Australia, what type of Parliament is built in Canada, what type of Parliament is built in England. Then we have to choose the type that we want—that which will last for many years to come. If we want to spend five to six million pounds on a Parliament, why is it that we cannot use about £25,000 to conduct investigations about it? Let us remember that the Minister of Finance and other Ministers go anywhere they like and throw parties to the tune of three to five thousand pounds at a time. That was what we were discussing in the Auditor's Report yesterday that made the Minister of Finance get offended. He said that £10,000 was judiciously spent.

But there is truth in the Report of the Auditor; and the Auditor meant well, for the Prime Minister has now sent a circular round that no Minister can go anywhere in this country without his authority. We must congratulate the Prime Minister for taking this immediate decision. The Prime Minister is not happy when the money of the country is spent in a way it should not be spent. All the Members of this House must join me to congratulate the Prime Minister on this decision he has taken.

A word for the wise is enough. The Prime Minister is here and it is not too late to vote some money for the new Parliament's preliminary investigation to be carried out.

I beg to support.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East) : I beg to move, That the Question be now put.

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

*Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Five Million, Forty-Two Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 637—General, be approved.

HEAD 638.—DEFENCE

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I rise to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Ten Million, One Hundred and Forty-Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred and Ten Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 638—Defence, be approved.

**Minister of State** (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima) : I beg to second.

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu) : I want to say one or two things on Defence. What is engaging our attention at the moment is the question of military installations in this country. If you look at the Head 638, Mr Chairman, you will note that the Military Installations are not dispersed.

For instance, in other parts of the world, in order to preserve the balance of power in the country the military installations are sited and dispersed so as to be able to avoid calamity in war. This is because if all the military installations are put in one place the whole thing can be bombarded and finished at a moment.

Take a look at the Army installations and you will notice that the whole thing is concentrated in one part of the country. Why should that be? I know that the government means well in its actions, but I must say that there must be foresight.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : May I point out to hon. Members that in no known country have military installations been discussed so freely as to let out the secrets or the intentions of the government to the outside world. So I am appealing to the Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*) to please desist from this line of argument, because it is not in keeping with the tradition of any country to try to give away the secrets of her military installations.

**Mr Chiedozie :** I am sorry for this, but there is only one point I want to make. I do not intend to leak out any secrets as such, but I just want to express an opinion for no one can tell what would happen the next day.

We are not revealing anything but we are entitled to say something on this matter in an advisory capacity as representatives of the public. We should protect the public. What, for instance, if we are attacked from Cameroun by land or by sea; or even from Northern Nigeria? What will the people of the East do? This is exactly why I am saying that these installations should be so dispersed and, by so doing, we are not revealing where they are.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour** (Mr N. A. Ezonbodor): On a point of information, the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*) brought in a big parcel to this House. It may be a bomb or any other thing we do not know.

**The Chairman :** You are too afraid.

**Mr Chiedozie :** With all respect to the Minister of Finance who himself is my leader, I am only saying this as a note of warning—a warning coming from the voice of a small man. What I say should be on record.

**Dr Okeke :** On a point of order, it seems that everybody, except Nigerians, knows where we have our military installations. The Americans know, and the Russians know, but not the Nigerians. We are the only set of people that do not know.

**Mr Chiedozie :** I want to add one thing. What will be my defence at Enugu when I am charged or asked a question as to what my contributions were when all military installations were being sited in one area? I feel that on the question of siting our military installations and in the interest of this country now and in the future (especially in view of what is happening now) it is a good idea to hide some of our military installations. It is so in Russia, in Siberia, *et cetera*, with the result that you cannot know for certain where their military installations are. The idea of this dispersal is to make the country so independent that no outside enemy can ruin it.

One of the greatest evils, even in industry, is to concentrate all projects in one place. The whole place can be bombarded and everything

turned into ruins. Surely, people know of this fact. I know the government means well by its actions; however, with all deference, I say these institutions should be dispersed and kept here and there.

In the East we are prone to be attacked. By this I do not mean to stir up any war, but suppose we are invaded from Cameroun? We have no single military installation in the whole of the Eastern Region. I am making this point now because if we do not say it we will be the worse for it.

We want some of the military research laboratories, rockets and some of the ballistic missiles to be kept in the Eastern Region and in the Western Region too. By doing this everything will be so balanced and there will be equilibrium in military defences.

That is the only point I want to make and I want it to be taken seriously, because in the future this will be the voice of the House—that in the interest of the security of the defensive measures of our nation we should spread out the military installations, so that any outside enemy will be shattered by our own military strategy.

**M. Ibrahim Muku** (Bida West): I rise to say something on our defence. It is well known that the greatness and might of a country is measured by its ability to combat outside aggression. That is why the question of defence should receive the country's attention.

We have to-day, in Awka Division of Eastern Nigeria, dangerous weapons being manufactured there, and I cannot tell whether it is—

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South): On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman speaking is imputing motives about the integrity of the people of Eastern Nigeria. I must say that the Easterners are law-abiding, and if anyone imports weapons to the North it should not be attributed to the people of the East.

**M. Ibrahim Muku :** What I am saying is that with the present trend of events in the country there is bound to be fear to find that in Awka Division of the Eastern Region deadly and dangerous weapons are being manufactured. We are afraid about this, and I cannot tell whether the government is aware of it.

I am very much concerned about the condition of other parts of the country *vis-a-vis* the

House of Representatives Debates

2181

[Appropriation (1964-65)

10 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

2182

production of dangerous weapons in Awka Division ; and no doubt it falls on this government to protect the lives and properties of the people of other parts of the Federation. They should be safeguarded. May I say that when this matter of our defence is discussed in the Cabinet this Awka affair should be taken note of.

**Mr Chiedozie :** On a point of order, we are seeking your protection, Mr Chairman. It is not good for honourable Members to come to this House to talk on matters bordering on regionalisation.

We are all here as representatives of one Nigeria, and anybody standing up on the Floor of this House to speak should be a man of responsibility. Let us do away with this tendency towards regionalism, and make statements that do not impute motives or attack any Region. We seek your protection, Mr Chairman, for a ruling that in future any Member speaking on regionalism or tribalism will be called to order.

**The Chairman :** I do not know where the Member for Bida West (*M. Muku*) got his facts ; but I have been listening to him with care to find out whether there is any reason for me to rule him out of order on the basis of being a regionalist.

However, it is evident from the Member's actions that, probably, the Member for Bida West is a tribalist and, perhaps, might have avoided making speeches that could make other Members suspect his intentions.

**M. Ibrahim Muku :** I have been made to understand that licences are being issued for the manufacture of guns, but the type of guns made in that part of the country are not in the best interest of the people of this country.

I am quite sure, the other three Regions are not manufacturing such dangerous weapons. I am, therefore, reminding the Federal Government that it is its duty to protect the people in other parts of the country.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I shall not subscribe to the idea that Government should be watchful about the manufacture of dangerous weapons in any part of this country. Rather, I want to assure this honourable House that, we should be proud of the ingenuity of the Awka people in the field of smithery.

I think that they are a credit to this country. They are peace loving and law abiding people. They have contributed very much in making some of our domestic materials like pots, *et cetera*.

I do not think that their intention is to manufacture dangerous weapons. I know them very well and we should be proud of them.

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West) :** In supporting Head 638, I would like to draw the attention of this honourable House to the Mid-West Region which is mid-way between Eastern Nigeria and Western Nigeria.

In the colonial days, there was an army unit at Agbor to protect the interest of the Government and the people of that area. But now, it is being thought that since the people of that area are law abiding, an army unit should not be posted there.

Now that the Mid-West Region has been created, it will be better for the Federal Government to post an army unit either to Benin or Agbor to protect Government properties and the people, especially the lives of Legislators. I have been made to understand that the other time the Mid-West House of Assembly met, an army unit was brought from Enugu to protect the people.

I am, therefore, asking the Minister of Defence to see to it that a permanent army unit is posted to Mid-Western Nigeria to protect the Government and the people.

I beg to support.

*Whereupon the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (Mr Exonbodor) 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 the expenditure from the Development Fund of Ten Million, One Hundred and Forty-Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred and Ten Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 638—Defence, be approved.*

## HEAD 639.—FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I beg to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, Six Hundred and Thirty-Two Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 639—Financial Obligations, be approved.

**Mr S. A. Lana :** I beg to second.

**Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West) :** I would like to refer to Sub-head 61—Lump Sum Compensation. It is very annoying to see that up to now, we are still having officers who want to go away with Lump Sum Compensation. Now, provision has been made in the 1964-65 Estimates up to the tune of £100,000.

I think the order to pay lump sum compensation was introduced prior to our independence, so that those expatriate officers who might not like to remain in our Civil Service will be paid compensation for opting to go back. But it is surprising to see that this item is still recurring every year. I think that these expatriates should have gone that same year or at least the preceding year. It appears now that £100,000 will be spent for those who have not gone, whereas they were asked to go, but they chose remain.

In my own opinion, I would say that all those officers who failed to leave the Civil Service of this country since independence should not be paid any lump sum compensation.

I beg to support.

**Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt) :** I am of the opinion that the Federal Government should abrogate the payment of lump sum compensation to those expatriate officers who have not left the Civil Service of Nigeria up to this time. I see that there is provision for the sum of £181,505 as "Balance To Complete". It appears to me that this sum is too huge.

This sum could give us a very big industry in Nigeria. It is regrettable to note that some of those expatriate civil servants who took this lump sum compensation are still in this country. Some of them are timber merchants at Warri and Sapele. It should have been reasonable enough for this class of officers to take the money and go back home and not to remain

here and start businesses. It is not fair for them to start businesses in this country.

My opinion, therefore, is that the Federal Government should stop the payment of lump sum compensation to those who are remaining in our Civil Service.

**Mr Eboigbodi :** On a point of order, it is good for those officers who received lump sum compensation to remain here with their money and start business here. The people of this country will benefit from their businesses. But if they go away with their money, it will not benefit our people but their own people.

**Mr Okay :** I am calling upon the Federal Government to stop further payment of lump sum compensation to those officers that are still in our Civil Service. We have not got enough money to develop this country. We need money to establish industries. We also need money to build more important institutions, and all these things require lots of money.

The other point that I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Finance to, is in respect of Sub-head 63—New Nigerian Notes and Coins. I would like to inform the Minister of Finance that our five shilling notes are not durable. We want something that is durable. Our one pound notes are very good, and so are our ten shilling notes. But our five shilling notes are very inferior. The Minister of Finance should take note of that.

**Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) :** I wish to bring out a few points on this Head. With regard to the new Nigerian coins, the Minister should actually see that the head of our Head of State is on our coins and notes. The Head of the Queen of England should not be there again as has been the case all the time.

I hear some Members saying that the palm tree and the cocoa tree are on our notes, well, we may have cocoa and palm trees on them, but at least every coin and every note should have the head of our President. We may have the cocoa and palm trees on them but at least every coin should have the emblem of the Head of State on it.

Another point I want to raise is about the African Development Bank. This bank is a very important bank to this country. It is a way of trying to integrate the efforts of African nations to help them solve their own development problems. I do not know whether this

country is contributing a very fair portion but then if we are contributing £1½ million, I do not think it is a sufficient contribution to this kind of an African Development Bank. May be this figure should have been raised to £5 million, so that the development of the bank will be the highest development in this Continent. It is a very shameful thing indeed, if Nigeria contributes only £1½ million to this important bank. I am not sure if the Minister of Finance is thinking of increasing this figure in the future, but if he does, we will definitely appreciate it.

I want to point out one thing about this Development Bank. We have been saying that our primary products have not been receiving any attention from the expatriate banks. I would therefore, like this bank to concentrate on the improvement of our primary products, that is giving African businessmen credit so that they can go into the fields of agriculture and Forestry and many other primary productions and improve the products of African countries.

I have noticed that when our palm oil or some other products compete with those of Eastern countries—Indonesia or Java—they always come out second or third in value. This is not good at all. In view of this, I would like this Bank to concentrate on encouraging Africans to improve African primary products. Not only this, I would like it also to give aid to African industrialists.

I know that some Nigerians are interested in the development of industries and in building industries in this country. There are also some African States who are interested in building their own industries. Although the State or Government finances the building of industries. I would like private enterprises to be granted loans with which to help the Government in the building of some of these industries. If loans are to be given, there should be a Planning Committee which will help in the giving out of loans so that the loans will be given indiscriminately and not given only on the advice of politicians.

If there is a Planning Board which will assist this African Development Bank, then the distribution of loans will be fairly done.

Mr Speaker, this is my contribution.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, Six Hundred and Thirty-Two Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65 under Head 639—Financial Obligations, be approved.

HEAD 640.—LOANS ON-LENT AND EXTERNAL GRANTS TO REGIONS

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I beg to move,

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Thirteen Million, Three Hundred and Two Thousand, Six Hundred and Ninety Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure 1964-65 under Head 640—Loans On-Lent and External Grants to Regions, be approved.

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** (Ahoada Central) : Under this Head, we have noticed that £13,302,690 has been provided for Loans On-Lent and External Aids.

This is a right step taken in the right direction, but I think that time has come when we must have a review of fiscal arrangements in this country. If allowed a fair share of the revenue accrued in some of our Regions, these Regions can stand on their own and would not need much of the External aids given to them. Since it is that when we raise certain matters we are being told that they are Regional matters, the Regions must have a fair share of the revenue accruing from them.

For instance, if we say that all the revenue accrued from the Port Harcourt Wharf should go to the Eastern Region, I am sure the Region will be capable of managing its affairs in such a way that it will not need external aid. But then when we talk of the development of that Port, we are being told that it is a Regional matter. I know that the Federal Government gets much of the revenue accrued from that Port but yet it leaves Port undeveloped. This is like someone taking the egg of a hen and leaving the hen uncared for. The Federal Government gets the revenue accruing from the Wharf and leaves that very municipality undeveloped. As I have already said, I am sure that the revenue from that Port if left to the Region will enable the Region to manage its affairs without external loans.

All I am asking for is a thorough review of the fiscal arrangements in this country. Time has come when we ought to do something

[MR ONWUCHEKWA]

about this. For instance, we were saying here the other time, that the Federal Government spends only 4% of its revenue on Education whereas there are Regions which spend 40% of their revenue on Education. If a review of fiscal arrangements is made, those Regions will be able to increase the sources of their revenue and will thereby, be able to cater and care for education in their Regions. There will be no need to call on the Federal Government to take over education because the Regions will then be able to finance not only their education but also any project that they undertake. I call most urgently for a review of fiscal arrangements in this country.

I beg to support.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe** (Orlu West) : I just want to say one or two things, partly in support of what my hon. Friend has said. Looking through the Constitution of this country, one would notice that much of the political power is in the hands of the Federal Government whereas much of the economic power is in the hands of the Regional Governments. This kind of a thing—political power being in one hand and economic power on the other hand—is rarely seen in the history of a developing nation. It rarely produces a healthy economy.

Economic power should not be devolved from political power. The Regional Governments are very strong economically. They have almost all the money in the country. But what is worse, is that the Federal Government does not dilute external loans before handing them over to the Regions to spend. The Federal Government assumes the responsibility for repayment of loans, security and so on, while, by and large, the Regional Governments and the village councils spend the money. Many a time this money is spent not for economic growth, but purely on political projects.

In London to-day we have so many offices. The Federal Government has an office there, the Western Nigeria Government has its own office there, like wise the Eastern and Northern Governments and very soon, county councils will have offices in London.

Many a time also in this country, people are masquerading and gallivanting all over the world asking for loans. People have not been coming from California, New York or even from Texas to Nigeria to look for loans as we

do in this country. Nigeria is not the only place where there is a Federal Government. We have Federal Governments in Australia and the United States of America. Therefore, if the Federal Government is going to underwrite these loans that we usually get and which it gives back to the Regions to spend, the Federal Government should be armed with the power to determine how the money should be spent. As the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) and I have often said on the Floor of this House, he who invites the piper should have the right to lay down the condition for piping.

Finally, one of our weaknesses in this country is the rate at which we are putting up buildings. Buildings never make a nation : buildings are the results of development. Britain, America, Germany, Australia and Russia first of all developed before they built houses.

The loans that we get from these countries should not be spent on buildings because by building houses, we derive nothing. The loans should be spent for the promotion of economic growth and not for the building of a new Parliament and, new houses for Ministers and V.I.P.s. This is one of the reasons why foreign loans do not come. Foreign loans cannot come because we cannot expect somebody from London who rides in a subway to give a loan to a country where a Member of Parliament rides a *Rolls Royce*. This is incongruous ; nobody will give us money under such a condition and that is why, up till this time, we can only give thirteen million pounds to the Regions. This amount is not equal to one-third of the revenue of a secondary school in America. The revenue of Cornell University in America is more than the revenue of the Federal Government of this country. The American Government in its development days used its money in promoting the growth of industries not on consumption.

In this country, too much money is spent on consumption. This is a shame. I think it is high time we began to think seriously and honestly. It is a happy commentary that the Minister of Finance himself is a practical man because he is a man who rose from nothing as many Members of this House did. He knows that we cannot start by consumption alone because if we start that way, we are heading for economic ruin. What is true of an individual is also true of a nation,



House of Representatives Debates

2189

[Appropriation (1964-65)

10 APRIL 1964

Bill : Committee]

2190

We consume too much instead of producing and that is why foreigners do not want to invest in Nigeria. You cannot ask somebody who feeds himself in a market place to give you money when you feed yourself at the Federal Palace Hotel. This is illogical; it is not true to light. It is my belief that the Federal Government which underwrites these loans to the Regions should begin to insist that the loans be spent on purposes for which they were originally meant.

I beg to support.

**Mr B. O. Ikeh** (Izi South): I agree with what the last speaker said about the loans to the Regions. I agree with him also about what he said as regards America because when America was a young country and was developing, it needed loans. It was from the loans that it developed and it is now that America has become a lending country. I hope that in future Nigeria will become a lending country too. I agree with him that whatever we have, we should try to use it in production and after producing, then we can consume abundantly.

I would like the Federal Government to see to it that we make proper use of our loans. I remember sometime ago when a company applied to the Federal Government—that was the Nigerian Lead and Zinc Company—for a loan of one million pounds to start to exploit the lead zinc deposit in the Eastern Region, the Federal Government showed no interest. But when we raised the issue and the Federal Government wanted to partake, it agreed to underwrite only three hundred and fifty thousand pounds and then the remaining part of the money could not be got from anywhere. If the Federal Government at that time agreed to lend this company the sum of one million pounds with which to exploit the lead zinc deposit in Eastern Nigeria, I think it would have been one of the sources of our revenue and also a source of employment for those who are unemployed. To-day the company is still running up and down in order to raise money for the exploitation of the deposit.

It is understood that the exploitation of this lead zinc deposit might be re-opened. I appeal to the Federal Government to see to it that this company is aided. Any money invested in this is not a waste and if the Regional

Government is to get this money, it should be well advised as the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) has earlier said. After all, it is not sufficient to lend money to the Regions, but they must also be directed as to how the money should be spent.

There is a tendency in some places for people to apply the money given to the Government to political ends instead of using the money to bring about more production. We have heard a lot of this *jeun, jaun* politics going on here and there. It is very, very important that the Federal Government should direct the Regional Governments to make the best use of the loans given them. It is no use raising the money, securing it and then playing with it. We know those who will sign with their toes and fingers.

Finally, I would like the Federal Government—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments** (Mr Akubakar Isandu): On a point of order, I wonder why some Members of this House are in the habit of referring to other Members as carpet-crossers and *jeun, jaun* politicians. After all, they have so many carpet-crossers with them over there.

**The Chairman**: Order. This remark is unnecessary.

**Mr Ikeh**: The point I am driving at is a very serious one. This Lead Zinc Mining Company requires money; they require the sum of one million pounds to start production. If the Federal Government will lend them £500,000, then they can make up the remaining £500,000 in order to start the exploration. The exploration and investigation of the lead zinc deposit cost the company about £1,100,000 and it has been discovered in commercial quantity. Why can we not give these people £500,000 and let them find the remaining £500,000 in order to enable them to start the work? I think the Federal Government can do this.

With this, I beg to support.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: There are just one or two points to reply to. Firstly, it has been very interesting to listen to the fiscal points made by my two hon. Friends. The last one,

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

my hon. Friend the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nseribe*) was comparing our revenue intake to that of the United States, but he refused to face the fact that when the United States started as we have just begun, they could not boast of the type of revenue that he was quoting here this morning.

If my hon. Friend were to look back even about five or six years ago, he would see that we have increased our revenue almost at an astronomical pace. Therefore, one must realise that the revenue of the Government is not earned like manna from Heaven. They are earned from taxation measures and that is why I said that it is impossible to follow the thinking of many hon. Members who say that the Federal Government should give out more money.

For instance, my hon. Friend the Member for Izi South (*Mr Ikeh*) has just said that the Federal Government should give half a million pounds to a lead zinc company just because they are here to explore lead zinc in his constituency. The Government cannot give money like that. If there is any lead zinc company to be established in this country, obviously the feasibility study must be accomplished and the Government has to examine those who are prepared to undertake the project and see whether it has money to partake in it and if so, to what percentage and so on and so forth. So, my hon. Friend should not just jump to a conclusion that as soon as there is any company coming here to try and make some investigations, the Government must jump into it and give money.

I sympathise with my hon. Friend that that could be a good industry and I assure him that it is the policy of the Government to support such industries that try to get our raw materials transformed into finished products for the use of our people. He will agree with me, however, that it is necessary that we must not rush, that we must examine the implication of any undertaking, the viability of any company and its possibilities before we invest our money.

As regards revenue allocation to the Regions, there is nothing we can do about it. It is laid down by law that what we give to the Regions is what they are entitled to under our fiscal distribution policy and law. We cannot give what belongs to the Federal Government to the Regions.

One of my hon. Friends had a very funny idea about the development of ports and intake from ports. If my hon. Friend feels that there is a port in Sapele and, therefore, all the earnings from there must be given to the Government of the Mid-West, for instance then, of course, it is an indication to the other Regions to ship their produce from another port and then it will be found that what is left in Sapele will not even be enough for the Government of the Region.

The hon. Gentleman cannot say also that because there is a port here in Lagos, therefore, everything shipped from here and all the duties collected from both imports and exports must be given to the people of Lagos. If this were so, then the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) would not allow us to come to Lagos. He would have been so rich that he would not allow anybody to come to Lagos at all.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** : How many Lagos chiefs are being paid from the revenue drawn from the Lagos ports ? The Minister of Finance is cheating the people of Lagos and his people in Sapele are paid highly there. For what reason are the people of Lagos not being paid ?

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** (Ijebu Central) : On a point of information, the Minister of Finance seems to forget that before the advent of the British, Sapele port belonged to Ijebu.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : Further to that point, within the context of Nigerian politics, the definition of the word *Ijebus* includes Itsekiris who are lower grade Ijebus.

**The Minister of Aviation** (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe) : On a point of information, I want to remind the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) of one Itsekiri proverb—"If your enemies are drumming for you, do not dance."

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : That is very good. As a matter of fact, I am going to write to the Olu of Warri to inform the Awujale to ask all Ijebus to pack bag and baggage and go to Warri.

Now, speaking quite seriously, I want to assure Members again that they must have read in the Press that as from next month, we shall be re-examining some aspects of our fiscal policy and allocation of revenue. If this is done, we will see whether some of the things

that our hon. Friends are asking the Federal Government to spend money for are appropriate.

The Member for Owo South (*Mr Ajasin*) spoke sometime ago and said that the Federal Government should be responsible for all the universities in the country. Does it mean that when the Regions established all the universities, they wanted the Federal Government to be responsible? Does it mean that all the expenditure should be borne by the Federal Government? If the revenue is re-allocated in such a way that the Federal Government has the lion's share, or we have a unitary system of Government, then, of course, the Federal Government will be able to take care of everything. But as long as we have a Federal system of Government, certain responsibilities are apportioned to us and money is given only for that purpose, certainly we must spend the money given to us only for the purpose. I think this is very clear.

All those who say that we should take the full responsibility of university education must, first of all, see that the universities are not established over our heads. If we are going to establish universities on a Regional basis, we must be prepared to carry the responsibility they will bring. We cannot establish universities here, there and yonder and then ask the Federal Government to be responsible for them.

It may be that very soon the Mid-West will have its own university. I think we should have one because if we do not have one, people like the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (*Mr Lana*) may not allow Mid-Westerners to go to Ibadan.

**Mr M. A. Ajasin** (Owo South): On a point of order, I think that once the Federal Government takes up the responsibility for the universities, it will have overall control of the universities and they will no more be the regional universities then.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: But the Federal Government did not start the universities. It is very easy for a man to start putting up a building, when it is nearing the roof and he knows he cannot cover it, then he asks somebody else to take it over, then to cover it and take the responsibility for finishing the building. That is what my hon. Friend is saying.

I appreciate the views expressed by my hon. Friend. I know he is a genuine man and he was well-meaning when he made the suggestion, but what I am saying is that the revenue allocation policy of the Government does not leave us with the possibility of taking up such undertakings and the question of university education is concurrent. If it is put in the exclusive list, naturally the man who is going to allocate the revenue will see to it that such provision is made in the allocation policy that the Federal Government will have enough money to do so. Until this is revised it will be impossible to do so, otherwise the Federal Government will be bankrupt. We do not want to be bankrupt because we want to be viable always and this is the foundation on which the financial and economic superstructure of Nigeria is erected.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*: That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Thirteen Million, Three Hundred and Two Thousand, Six Hundred and Ninety Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65, under Head 640—Loans On-lent and External Grants to Regions, be approved.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: I beg to move, That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolutions.

**The Minister of Aviation** (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe): I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*, That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolutions.

#### NAVY BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**Minister of State** (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima): I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to make other provision for the establishment, government and discipline of the Nigerian Navy and of the Naval Reserve and to provide for other matters connected therewith or ancillary thereto, be read a Second time.

[ALHAJI GALADIMA]

There is in existence a Nigerian Navy Act which this House passed in 1960. The Act is not, however, a self-contained code because it leans heavily on United Kingdom legislation.

At the time the Act was drawn up, the Nigerian Navy had not got sufficient experience as an operational force to draw up and administer a self-contained legal code, so that on a number of matters all that is stated in the existing Act is that the provision of United Kingdom legislation would apply to the Nigerian Navy, with adaptations where necessary. The most prominent of the United Kingdom legislation involved is the Naval Discipline Act of 1957.

With the experience which the Nigerian Navy has gained as an operational force, it has been the concern of my Ministry for some months to draw up a self-contained code for the Nigerian Navy. Furthermore, with the attainment of a Republican status by Nigeria, it has become a matter of principle that as much as possible the country's legislation should be self-contained.

In 1960 the Nigerian Army Act was promulgated as a self-contained legal code, and the present Bill is intended to provide a similar self-contained code for the Nigerian Navy. The Bill has brought together all the necessary provisions from the United Kingdom Naval Discipline Act, the existing Nigerian Navy Act and the appropriate sections from the Nigerian Army Act 1960. Altogether, there are 215 sections divided into 9 parts.

Part I of the Bill is not a new legislation. It merely repeats the provisions of the existing Act for the establishment of the Nigerian Navy and of a Naval Reserve.

Similarly, Part II deals with the establishment of the Navy Board, responsible under the general authority of the Minister of Defence for matters relating to command, discipline and administration of the Navy.

Part III of the Bill repeats some of the provisions of the existing Act relating to the command of the Navy and the commissioning of officers. It also stipulates the terms of enlistment of officers and ratings and their conditions of service.

Part IV of the Bill dealing with the discipline and trial and punishment of naval offences is worth particular mention because it largely

replaces the United Kingdom Naval Discipline Act to which reference is made in the existing Nigerian Navy Act. It states clearly all known types of naval offences such as assistance to the enemy, mutiny and desertion to mention but a few. Punishment for these offences are duly prescribed.

This part also contains general provisions regarding courts-martial—the jurisdiction of courts-martial, the power to convene courts-martial, their composition and their dissolution if necessary.

Provision is made for appeals to the Federal Supreme Court and Part V of the Bill sets out the procedure for making such appeals.

Part VI of the Bill provides that the President may make regulations governing the pay, allowances and other emoluments of officers and ratings. It provides also for forfeitures of pay or deductions from pay under certain conditions for example to recover fines imposed or as punishment for absence from duty without leave. These are desirable features of the Nigerian Army Act which have been incorporated in the Bill.

Part VII of the Bill also taken from the Nigerian Army Act contains miscellaneous provisions such as the exemption of naval personnel and equipment from duties and tolls and the arrest and punishment of deserters.

Although the existing Navy Act provides for the maintenance of a Naval Reserve Force, it does not spell out its functions.

Part VIII of the Bill provides that reservists and pensioners may be called up for annual training; they may also be called out to aid the civil power in the preservation of public peace. In time of war, they may be called out for permanent service.

This is in line with the liability to duty of Army and Air Force reservists, and is in the national interest.

Part IX of the Bill contains clauses relating to wills and property, as well as an interpretation clause.

As I have already stated, there is nothing basically new in this Bill. It simply weaves into new legislation the existing laws governing the Nigerian Navy and incorporates a few features of the Nigerian Army Act.

The Bill represents at once the coming of age of Nigeria and her Navy; it is non-con-

troversial and should commend itself to all sides of the House.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State (Mr M. T. Mbu)**: I beg to second.

*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—(MINISTER OF STATE—ALHAJI IBRAHIM TAKO GALADIMA).*

**Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West)**: This Bill is a non-controversial Bill, but I have a few observations to make.

The first one is about the discipline of our Naval Force. Efforts should be made to impose a heavier penalty on a Naval Officer or anybody employed in the Navy who gives assistance to the enemy and is found to be guilty after a court-Martial has been held. In my opinion, I think that such a person should be condemned to death.

Another point worthy of mention is the common practice in the Navy and Air Force where men desert their forces. Efforts should be made to know the reason why men desert their forces.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: My hon. Friend is out of order. On Third Reading, he is not allowed to go into the merits and demerits of the Bill.

**Mr Elenwa**: I am trying to speak generally. I have not mentioned any particular Head.

Another point I must touch is that sometimes, officers give the names of wrong persons as their next-of-kins, and these are people who may not be their real relatives. Efforts should be made so that when they die, the real names of the officers' relatives could be known.

I beg to support.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East)**: There is just one point I would like to commend to the Ministry of Defence. We have got some people trained on government scholarship for service in the Navy as Naval Engineers. Some of these people have already come back but are still in the air. There is no proper

establishment for them, and they are finding it difficult to be properly placed.

I think that with this law, there is no doubt that the government is properly armed with the appropriate legislation to run the Navy and to make it one of the best in the world. I think it would be a very good start if we make our naval officers feel that they are getting their due share. I hope that the Minister will look into this question of Naval Engineers trained at the expense of the government, otherwise, we might be losing them.

**Minister of State (Mr M. T. Mbu)**: All our naval officers as well as our naval ratings are given the best conditions of service that this country can offer to any disciplined force.

We have only two trained engineers and these are not only encouraged to carry out their duties in Nigeria, but are, at the moment, being given opportunity to specialise further in England. I can assure my hon. Friend that if there is any case of injustice brought to my notice, I shall look into it. We need more of those who are trained and who have the technical know-how, and we shall not but do everything to encourage them.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third time and passed.*

EXCISE (CONTROL OF DISTILLATION) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: I beg to move:

That a Bill for an Act to make further provisions for the control and licensing for excise purposes the distillation of spirits be read a Second time.

This is a straightforward and non contentious Bill and I commend it to the approbation of the whole House.

I beg to move:

**The Minister of External Affairs (Dr Jaja Wachuku)**: I beg to second, particularly when I notice that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (*Mr N. A. Ezombodor*) is very happy.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban)**: This Bill is a welcome one. For many years now, Members of this Parliament have times without number, appealed to the government

[MR OKORONKWO]  
to introduce the Bill. Now that it is introduced, I should like to say that the government must be prepared to consider the local distillers whenever they put up applications to enable them carry on their job.

The distillation of this drink has caused trouble in the past. Many people who made their living through this particular business had been gaoled. But now I would like the Minister who will be responsible and who will be in control of this distillation to see to it that the price of imported liquor in Nigeria is reduced, and that these people are given ample opportunity to make the price cheap in Nigeria instead of being costly like our beer.

I beg to support.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** : (Aba South) : There is an important point I wish to make on this Bill. When a distillery is built in this country consideration should be given to the areas where the local manufacture of gin is being done at present. These areas should be considered first in the location of this industry.

I have in mind the people of my own constituency who are versed in the processing of this gin. This area is along the basin of the Imo River. It is a flourishing industry in this area and therefore the distillery should be located there.

I see the Member for Asaba West (*Mr Eboigbodi*) rise on a point of information but I will not yield to his point of information.

Wherever the distillery is going to be built consideration must be given also to buying over the locally distilled gin from the natives with a view to refining it in the distillery. If this is done it will definitely give jobs to those who are already locally distilling gin.

**Mr Akwiwu** : I think the assertion of my hon. Friend needs a commission of inquiry to look into it, in order to find out whether the buying centre should be in his constituency or in the constituency of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour, (*Mr N. A. Ezonbodor*).

**Mr Speaker** : It is not necessary for you to say so.

**Mr Ememe** : I was saying that the distillery which would brew this gin and other drinks

would have to get local materials for this purpose and I am saying that already, the local materials exist in the area. Instead of getting ordinary palm wine—

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : The Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) is reading the *Daily Sketch*.

**Mr Speaker** : Will the Member please put the paper away.

**Mr M. A. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : I was only having a look at the *Daily Trash*.

**Mr Ememe** : The local material that can be used for the manufacture of gin exists along the basin of the Imo River. That is what I am trying to say and consideration should be given to getting this material locally so that the people who are already in the business could share in this industry. There will be no unemployment when this distillery is built.

The Minister must consider this very seriously because if this distillery is built in some other area and this throws out of job many people who are already engaged in this local industry, he will be causing trouble. I wish the Minister would take this into consideration.

**Mr L. O. Tobun** (Epe) : May I associate myself with all the hon. Members who have spoken on this Bill. There are many Nigerians who are good in the distillation of gin but because it is prohibited by the Government the people are afraid to be caught by the Police.

The constituents of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour are well known for distilling gin and I think it is only fair that the Federal Government should site this industry in their area.

May I warn that when the distillation of gin is legalised in this country no expatriate should be allowed to come to this country to feed fat on the people. If expatriates were to be allowed then they should only come to teach our people and go back.

We drink a lot in this country and we do not want the people to take away—

**Mr Akwiwu** : On a point of information, I do not know whether the Member for Epe (*Mr Tobun*) is insisting on the statement of fact that he drinks a lot.

**Mr Tobun** : As I was saying, when the distillation of gin is legalised, expatriates

should be allowed to come into this country only to come and teach our people.

The constituents of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour can be trained, they are good in this industry.

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** (Ijebu Central): In supporting this Bill ably presented by the Minister of Finance, may I appeal most seriously and humbly to our Minister of Finance to kindly ensure that he encourages the distillers to see that my constituency is specially considered.

We have cassava in very large quantity in my constituency and the Federal Government has never sited any industry in my constituency. I think consideration should be given to my constituency.

In the siting of the Nigerian Mint in Lagos, the Federal Government has overruled the area noted for this industry. The Federal Government has been careful enough to site the Nigerian Mint in Lagos and it should also be careful to see that the Distillery does not go to Western Ijaw.

I beg to support.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): I welcome the Bill and share the same opinion with the hon. Members who have spoken in support of this Bill.

There is one point however that I wish to emphasise; in my constituency, Awka Division, we have a bottling industry for which the Regional Government has commended the inhabitants for their skill and aptitude. I am asking the Federal Government, when the industry is to be established, to think of Awka Division where already there is a flourishing palm wine industry. We have a large quantity of cassava and all the ingredients necessary for the manufacture of alcohol in this area.

It is important that in establishing industries, consideration should be given to localities where there is the necessary skill, as well as the raw materials and the market. Already the people of my constituency who have started the bottling of palm wine on their own took part in the Nigeria Trade Fair in 1962. They are also exporting bottled palm wine to the Northern Region.

I think that if the Federal Government sites this industry in Awka Division, it will be an

encouragement to the people. There is no industry established by the Federal Government in Awka Division and this is an opportunity for the Federal Government to do something.

Sometime ago, I appealed to the Federal Government to build an Arms Factory and an Iron and Steel Industry in Awka Division because the inhabitants are well known for their skill in manufacturing good steel materials even before the advent of the imperialists.

I beg to support.

*Whereupon the Member for Owerri East (Mr D. N. Abii) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.*

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

*Main Question put accordingly and agreed to.*

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

EXCISE (CONTROL OF DISTILLATION) BILL :  
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE  
Clause 1—(DISTILLER'S LICENCE)

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja): It is often said "out of sight out of mind."

This morning, some hon. Members have been claiming quite stoutly the dexterity for the distillation of gin. I wish to say that the Minister of Finance should not forget the fact that amongst his own Cabinet Colleagues, there is a representative of the people in whose constituency there are no equals all over the Republic in the distillation of gin.

This place is Okitipupa, the constituency of the Minister of Communications. When it comes to siting this industry, the people of Okitipupa should be remembered.

**Chief D. A. Ogunleye** (Ede-Ejigbo): On a point of order, the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) is not speaking on Clause 1.

*Clause—1—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 2-15,—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 16—(FORFEITURE AND CONDEMNATION OF SPIRITS SEIZED)*

**Mr U. O. Ayeni** (Afenmai North West): In Clause 16 (3), it is stated that any quantity of spirit seized should not be destroyed, rather it should be sold by the Government.

Clause 16—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 17-28—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

First, Second and Third Schedules agreed to.  
Bill reported without Amendment.

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

**Chief Ogunleye** : May I say that the gin distilled by our people should not be called illicit gin but African gin. If hon. Members see many people at Sapele and Okitipupa sweating very early in the morning, they do not take anything more than this gin and it serves as a good tonic for these people.

I am appealing to the Minister of Finance to allocate sufficient funds to make for easy distillation of gin because people love to take it.

**The Minister of External Affairs** (Dr Jaja Wachuku) : On a point of order, we should disregard the suggestion made by the Member for Ede-Ejigbo (*Chief Ogunleye*) that we should, when we distil our own gin, name it the African Gin, because other states in Africa will protest that we are infringing on their rights.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South) : I only wish to call the attention of the Minister to one important point on this question of excise duty. It is always the habit in this country to charge heavy excise duty on locally produced materials. As a result they become very expensive and cannot compete with the imported ones. This important matter should be very seriously looked into to ensure that when our distilled gin comes to the market it is sold at a very low cost.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : On a point of order, the Itsekiri people have a saying that "a bird that talks too much can never build a nest". The hon. Gentleman who has just spoken wastes his time talking and contradicting himself. At one time he said that he paid import duty and so on.

The fact of it is that the contrary is the case of what he is saying. The excise tax is lower than the import duty charged in order to protect our local industries. Let the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) cite one instance in which excise duty is higher than the import duty charged on any of our local industries.

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central) : There is one small point I would like to draw

the attention of the Minister to which relates to the wording of clause 3 (1) (a). It is provided under this Clause that whoever is the officer to administer the provisions of this Act may control any activity that is conducted in the premises. I think that this is rather too loose and wide to be left in the hands of an officer. If he may be allowed as stated in Clause 3 (1) (a) thus —

(a) *prohibiting or restricting the carrying on on the premises or particular parts thereof of such activities as may be prescribed;*

then what these "such activities" are, I think we ought to know.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I am sure that my hon. Friend the Member for Nsukka Central (*Mr Amadi*), who is my private educational adviser, should realise that when the Customs Authority have to control finished products for the purposes of excise duty, the whole premises must be secure and therefore, all the activities there must be controlled.

If this is not done we will have a situation where gin, whisky or brandy is distilled and people like the Member for Epe (*Mr Tobun*) bring in customers through the backyard to take away the distilled products without paying any excise duty. That is the type of activity we want to control.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.*

## ADJOURNMENT

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

MR DANIEL OFARN

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu) : I wish the Minister of External Affairs to make a statement on the following topic which is causing considerable anxiety in the country.

Mr Daniel Ofarn was sponsored by the Nigerian Trade Union Congress to study agricultural engineering in Bulgaria. It happened that there was a demonstration against the government of that country for the bad treatment given to the Ghanaian students over there which resulted in the expulsion of many of the African students. It is being speculated that this Nigerian was murdered in cold blood at the time of the



demonstration. We want to know what measures is the government taking, through diplomatic channels, to investigate the true position and whereabouts of this Nigeria.

I also want to know whether the time is not yet due for Nigeria to establish an embassy in Bulgaria in order to protect our students and citizens.

**Dr Jaja Wachuku** : Perhaps the Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*) is agitating because of what he has read in the newspapers. Certainly, a case of this nature, if it is true, bears out the government in the step which has been taken to protect Nigerian citizens.

It is the policy of the government that Nigerians going abroad, for whatever purpose, should use the normal legal and constitutional processes and channels. But when people choose, not even to go through backdoors but to go through uncharted forests, nobody knows how they go out of the country and who assists them, it will be too much to expect the government to know the movement of such persons.

This is a very serious warning ; some trade unionists and some nationalists smuggle out people through various channels to foreign lands and have not even the courtesy of telling the External Affairs Ministry or their own government.

We must be prepared for this type of unfortunate incident occurring, if this is true ; but I would like to tell the House that my Ministry will do everything possible to explore all avenues to find out whether there is truth in the whole matter.

After all, as Members might have read, we have some relationship with Bulgaria, and we will use all available channels to find out about this incident, if it is true. Sometimes matters are exaggerated and it may well be that this gentleman is hiding somewhere and nobody knows.

I would ask the hon. Gentleman who raised this point also to tell the trade union organisation that gave him this information to give us all available facts which will enable us to make adequate investigation on the matter.

I do not think that the second part of this subject on the Motion for Adjournment is really relevant to the issue—the establishment of an embassy in Bulgaria.

Embassies are not established purposely to protect students ; they are established for wider purposes other than just protecting students.

#### THREAT TO NATIONAL UNITY

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : The events of the last few days have been disturbing this nation. Recently tribal sentiments have flared up in our country and are threatening not only our national unity, but also the efficiency of our civil servants. This has continued with intensity, especially among the Ibos and the Yorubas, led by some of your Ministers, Mr Prime Minister.

I have the following pamphlets here with me :

(a) *The Daily Sketch* of this morning with the caption "*Tribal cult on war path*".

(b) *Salama*—"Nigerian Unity, Facts Must Be Faced".

(c) "*Sardauna Accepts Census Figures*".

(d) "*A New Deal for Western Nigeria*", a broadcast to the people of Western Nigeria by the hon. Premier Chief S. L. Akintola.

(e) "*Nigerian Disunity—The Guilty Ones*", published by the Ibo State Union.

(f) "*To the Ibos of Nigeria*" on "*The Nigerian Television Service*" and on "*One Nigeria Benson*", dealing with facts about employment.

(g) "*House of Chiefs Debates*"—Official report of Monday, 6th April, 1964. This has been put in our pigeon-hole.

(h) "*Census Controversy—One North or One Nigeria*".

Time has come to call a halt to this kind of disunity which is threatening our nation. The Prime Minister should make a statement on the Floor of this House to reassure us. He should make a statement on the principles guiding employment in this Republic. He should tell us whether employment in this Federation is not based on merit and ability.

We do not want our Civil Service to founder on the rock of tribalism and nepotism. God has given the Prime Minister to us as a wise leader in this formative period of our country. Our country is in difficulty. Will the Prime Minister reassure us that he would

[DR OKEKE]

make every effort to get some heads together to discuss all these problems that have been agitating our minds ; problems that are going to divide us into pieces, into Regions, into tribes, clans and individuals ?

We want our nation to be united and, as our leader, the Prime Minister should lead the way. He should bring all leaders together and let us see what they can tell us. We the followers are confused. We do not know what to do and where to go ; he must point out the way.

We would like the Prime Minister to reassure us because we are afraid for the future unity of this country.

**The Prime Minister :** I am glad that the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) has raised this matter which has been giving me some concern in recent weeks.

I condemn this inter-tribal war, and I think that every responsible Nigerian who wants to see this country united will condemn it.

In the past, in this country, when we spoke of inter-tribal differences, I used to ascribe it to the fact that our people were very fond of talking. But recently, we have started to write those differences down in the form of booklets. What is written, is written. It means that we are leaving to posterity some of the foolish things that we are doing in our own time, because I think that no matter what happens, the people of this country must live together.

If we fail in our time to live together, our children's children will condemn us and they might try on their own to live together.

In the Federal Public Service, as far as I am aware, there is no question of looking at the face of any candidate for a post, to see whether he comes from the East, the North, the West or the Mid-West. Appointments are based on merit and other things and not on the tribal affiliation of a candidate.

It is very unfortunate that when we are trying to build a country, we seem to get very excited over very small things. One often wonders whether we are really as mature as we appear to be. We must belong to our tribes ; we must feel for our tribes, but I take it that the unity of this country is greater than any tribe. The unity of Nigeria is greater than the life of any individual in this country. (*Hear, hear*).

I am afraid we are being carried away by emotions. We appear to be petty minded, and the worst thing about it is that those people who preach tribalism are only a very small group of the population. When I say that it is confined to a small group of people, I mean that it is confined, I think, to not more than 200,000 people of the vast population of this country.

It is confined to those of us who are in the Regional Legislatures and those of us who are in the Federal Parliament. It is confined only to those of us who have the privilege and the opportunity to serve the best interests of the country, but, unfortunately, because we are too selfish, we want to remain where we are always. That is why we try to flare up this inter-tribal misunderstanding.

If we could limit our tribal feelings and tribal discussions to the Regional Legislatures or to Parliament, that might not be too serious ; but it would still show our failure to do the duty which our country demands from us, because we have been here for about five years. Some of us have been here for seventeen years. If after working together and doing everything together for seventeen years the very mention of tribe would excite us and make us go mad in such a way as to try to draw our swords, honestly, I think we have failed.

Instead of every year seeing us more and more united, now it appears from the events of recent weeks that small things break us more and more. By the way we are going now, I must say that it is very difficult for any one of us to say how and when it will end. However, I have no doubt that there are people in this country, who are mature enough, who are sensible enough to see the dangers ahead, and I hope that they will do everything in their power to see that this inter-tribal war comes to a stop.

We must stop it. It is too much. Our students and Nigerian nationals abroad, on reading these pamphlets which the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) has told the House about, and reading our newspapers and listening to the radio, would really feel very uneasy. In fact, some of them have already written to ask me whether the country is breaking up. I could not tell them whether we are breaking up or coming together.

*House of Representatives Debates*

2209

[*Adjournment*]

10 APRIL 1964

[*Adjournment*]

2210

In the past, we used to have this type of situation, but it eventually came to a stop. But now those of us who are in a position to make us come together and discuss it, are finding it more and more difficult because everyday there are new things cropping up. Everyday, people are making it more difficult for things to be settled.

If one makes too much noise, one is bound to commit oneself to such an extent that one cannot go back. That is the harm noise making does to people. Unfortunately, now, we are writing all sorts of things, and the blame will be on all sides.

I would like to assure this honourable House again that as far as the Federal Public Service is concerned, we are not going to descend so low as to think of tribes all the time because, if we do so, the Federal Public Service will not function efficiently. We want efficient Nigerians to man the Federal Public Service. I must say that the Federal Public Service has so far not been too much affected, although, of course, if we go on and on preaching inter-tribal doctrines, in the long run, the Service will have to be affected. Everything will have to be affected. I hope that all of us who are in a position to exercise any kind of influence would try to do so. The same thing applies to our Corporations.

Is it not a shame that after we have agreed to come together we should be writing all these things that we are now writing? We no longer talk about Nigerians. We talk about so many Ibos, so many Hausas, so many Yorubas; so many this and so many that. Is it not shameful for us to be talking like this after we have all agreed on the unity of this country?

The condition of this country, as I see it now, is not very healthy. We keep on talking about Nigerian unity, Nigerian disunity and inter-tribal warfare, but I do not think that talking like this will do any good to this country.

We are looking outside for people to come and assist us in the development of Nigeria, for people to assist the Government in raising the standard of living of our people. But then, what do we do? We drive these people away by our utterances and writings on tribal warfare.

I hope the leaders of this country will be reasonable and stop rushing at conclusions. I hope they will really try to study the situation before making their utterances and before committing themselves. We can always meet and discuss these problems, no matter how difficult or how serious they are. We have been faced with more difficult situations before, and we solved them. In the same way, we can also solve peacefully and without bitterness the difficulty with which we are now faced. But the way we are now going, I am sure there will be a lot of bitterness and I cannot see how an end will be put to things.

We have to live together. In the way we are talking now, it will be really very sad and too much for anyone of us to dream of this country breaking into bits. It will indeed be very sad, for not only the people of Nigeria will condemn us, not only people from African countries, but the whole world will condemn us.

So, Mr Speaker, I appeal very strongly to everyone of us to exercise restraint and to show some sense in what we are trying to do, that is, the building of one united country.

I remember what an important American once said—"United we stand, divided we fall". This is quite true. We are in a very difficult world. God has given us plenty of opportunity to help the African Continent. We are doing our best, but I can see, following the trend of events here, that we shall soon find it impossible to render any assistance to any African country. If we cannot live among ourselves, how can we ask others to live peacefully among themselves? It will be impossible, and our influence on everything will just be nothing.

In making this appeal to Members, I would also like to appeal to our Press. They do not improve matters at all. They imagine things in their heads and commit them to writing. They continue writing and writing. Well, they are perhaps like us. They want to join in the excitement, in the noise-making and in misdirecting things. This does not help us at all. It is all right when we say these things here in this House, but our newspapers go all over the world. When people outside this country read these things, they will say, "Well, these people are in a mess."

[PRIME MINISTER]

In fact, I must say that I am not happy at all about what is going on. It is unfair to me, I think, that these things will be going on and on like this without even giving me time to try to do what I can. I have been trying in a little way and I will continue to try, but if things continue like this and get out of hand, it will be more difficult for me to try to assist in finding a solution.

Nevertheless, it is my prayer that God will give us the strength, the courage and the determination to stand against these petty things which tend to break us into bits. (General Acclamation).

Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa): The Prime Minister's reply seems to have covered the point which I was going to make. My

point was to have been on the alleged discrimination against the West in the distribution of amenities and posts. The Prime Minister has replied fittingly to this point and I think those of us in the West will not continue to believe that the West is being discriminated against.

Mr P. O. Akpan (Uyo South East): It appears the Minister in charge of Police Affairs is not here. I do not know whether there is somebody here to reply on his behalf.

Mr Speaker: Is anybody here going to give a reply on behalf of the Minister for Police Affairs? It appears there is nobody.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at 11.40 a.m.

House of Representatives Debates

2213

[Ministerial Statement]

11 APRIL 1964

[Ministerial Statement]

2214

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Saturday, 11th April, 1964

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

**The Minister of Information** (Mr T. O. S. Benson): Mr Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I wish to make a Statement on three matters which have been raised by hon. Members during this session of Parliament. They are:

- (i) The defence of the President
- (ii) The decision of the Government
- (iii) The decision of the Government concerning Overseas Publicity
- (iv) The External Broadcasting Station at Ikorodu.

With regard to the defence of the President, I believe the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister spoke for the Nation when he stated in this honourable House on Thursday, the 2nd of April that "it is the duty of every Nigerian to see that the position of the President is really respected and that everything is done to safeguard it". Indeed, the President is the symbol of our Nation. If we respect our Nation then we must automatically respect the President of the State.

The President is above party and he is above tribe. The President is without a political party and without tribe. So it is wrong to drag the President to any party politics or to any tribal considerations. It is also wrong for any political party or any tribe to claim the President as its own. It would be a good thing for Nigeria if all its citizens would desist from indentifying the President with their political party or religious persuasion or tribe. The President is the Head of the State and he belongs to all.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East): On a point of order, I wonder if the Minister is making a Ministerial Statement, if so, he is

delving into the realms of controversy which might be debatable either here or outside.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): On a point of order, in support of the point raised by the Deputy Speaker, I think the Minister is making a statement on a matter that had been closed. From the Prime Minister's statement this nonsense should have been closed. To renew it by his statement is to bring another trouble. I would like to tell the Minister to stop everything about this subject which has been closed since a week ago.

**Mr Speaker**: I would like to hear the Minister a little bit more, perhaps I have to pay more attention.

**Mr Benson**: There have been some remarks to the effect that I, as Minister of Information, should always come out in defence of the President. I appreciate those remarks but I have not failed in my duties in that regard.

It is needless for me to recount what I have done by way of public statements in the recent past in defence of the Government and of the Head of State. I should like to say, however, that if Nigerians regard the President as the symbol of the Nation and of our national unity then every Nigerian, including the Member for Owerri East, should readily come forward in defence of the President whenever the occasion arises.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North): On a point of order, as two hon. Members have previously said, I think this matter has been closed and an appeal has been made to this House. If the Minister of Information has failed in his duties and the Prime Minister came to rescue him that is not a reason for him to come and waste our time here. He should close this matter and tell us about all the comments made about his Ministry.

**Mr Benson**: Defending the President in effect means defending the State. I assure this honourable House that I shall continue to do my duty in that wise.

I wish now to turn to the question of Overseas Publicity for this young Republic. In supporting the Appropriation Bill, I gave a comprehensive account of the activities of my Ministry during the last twelve months, and also of the organisations under its wings.

[MR BENSON]

There have been many references to Overseas Publicity for Nigeria during the debate. I am very pleased about the interest which hon. Members have continued to show on the subject of publicity for Nigeria abroad. I want to assure the House that in view of the recent decision of Government concerning external publicity, everything possible will be done to increase the range and the scope of publicity for this country abroad. In this connection, it is I think necessary that hon. Members should know the exact decision of the Government so that they may not continue to be misled. The Government decision is as follows :—

(i) that the Ministry of Information should continue to provide the trained staff which should be attached to Nigeria's Embassies and High Commissions overseas ;

(ii) that the officers so posted should, whilst overseas, form part and parcel of the Embassy or High Commission to which they are attached and come under the control of the Ambassador or High Commissioner ;

(iii) that the Foreign Ministry should ensure that all staff attached to overseas missions enjoyed the same privileges as were enjoyed by members of the Foreign Service ;

(iv) that the Ministry of Information, in consultation with the Foreign Ministry, should be charged with the responsibility of preparing materials required for overseas publicity.

As I understand the decision of Government on overseas publicity, my Ministry is responsible for providing the personnel and material for external publicity. Of course, in choosing men and material, my Ministry will always consult the Ministry of External Affairs. In fact, there is a Foreign Service Postings Committee which selects the officers for overseas posts.

I assure hon. Members that plans are in hand for the production of more information materials—films, photographs and pamphlets. My Ministry is to be reorganised and expanded to cope with its enhanced responsibilities in respect of publicity for Nigeria at home and abroad. I thank hon. Members also for their interest in the subject in the past and I wish to assure them that I shall continue to do my best to give adequate publicity for Nigeria abroad.

In this connection, it is also being planned to send organised groups of Nigerian dancers, drummers and singers overseas occasionally in order to project Nigerian culture.

The 'Voice of Nigeria', as I have stated on an earlier occasion, is now heard in many parts of the world. Within the next few months, it will be heard throughout the world.

The Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) was reported in the N.B.C. "To-day in Parliament" Programme for Thursday, 9th April to have said that the land at Ikorodu where the transmitters for "Voice of Nigeria" are installed belongs to me and that the land was sold for £75,000.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : On a point of order, the Minister is not aware that the 'Voice of Nigeria' is not heard in Onitsha and I want to inform him about that.

**Mr Benson** : This man is not an intelligent doctor. The 'Voice of Nigeria' is meant for overseas and if he wants to hear it in Onitsha he must tune to the right meter band.

**Dr Okeke** : For semi-illiterate Ministers to address doctors as unintelligent should not be allowed in this House.

**Mr Benson** : He is a guinea-worm doctor. (*Applause by N.N.D.P. Members*).

**Mr J. K. de-Omomadia** (Urhobo East) : On a point of order, I want to know if the Minister of Information is on the other side of the House now.

**Mr Benson** : Sir, I am being disturbed by the members of the Ibo State Union.

I want to repeat this point again—the Member for Asaba East was reported in the N.B.C. "To-day in Parliament" Programme for Thursday, 9th April to have said that the land at Ikorodu where the transmitters for 'Voice of Nigeria' are installed belongs to me and that the land was sold for £75,000. I regret to say that this statement is malicious, wicked and false and has no element of truth in it whatever.

**Mr N. E. Elenwa** (Ahoada West) : On a point of order, would the Minister accept a challenge for a commission of inquiry to be instituted into that land? That land is his, and he is denying it.

House of Representatives Debates

2217

[Ministerial Statement]

11 APRIL 1964

[Ministerial Statement]

2218

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

**Mr Benson** : Sir, I can deal with each of them. I was in politics before them. I repeat again that I regret to say that this statement is malicious, wicked and false and has no element of truth in it whatever. The records are all available for anyone to see. I want to state with all the emphasis at my command that the land does not belong to me, and I have not benefitted by one penny from the transaction.

The story of the acquisition of the Ikorodu site is simple. The N.B.C. planned to set up the transmitters for External Broadcasting at Sogunle, but abandoned the idea because of the objections from the Ministry of Transport and the Nigeria Airways Corporation who felt that the erection of tall towers near the airport would interfere with the flight and safety of aircraft, and the Ministry of Communications which felt that signals from such powerful transmitters near their Oshodi Transmitters would disturb their signals.

The suggestion was therefore made by the Ministry of Lagos Affairs that a site could conveniently be acquired at Ikorodu since Cable and Wireless acquired a site in the area not long ago. The cost of acquisition of about 152 acres of land and compensation for crops and buildings demolished on the land at Ikorodu was £26,629-15s-6d.

It is necessary to say that hon. Members should desist from using the privilege of this honourable House to make malicious, false and scandalous statements about fellow Members. I would welcome any inquiry into this matter and also into the staff position of the Nigerian Television Service at any time, and I do hope that the hon. Member too will tell his own brothers to welcome an inquiry into the Corporations under them. He should tell them to accept an inquiry into the Railway Corporation.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : On a point of order, No. 26(2), I feel sorry that my hon. Friend, the Minister of Information, is becoming irrelevant. He is trying to introduce tribalism again.

**Mr Speaker** : It seems that the Member for Aba Urban is defending a tribe.

**Mr S. O. Kolade** (Oyo South) : On a point of order, I think the challenge of the Minister of Information is also a challenge to Dr Ikejiani.

**Mr Benson** : Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity you have given me to make this Statement.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of order, in Nigeria there are about two hundred different linguistic groups. For instance, my hon. Friend, the Minister of Economic Development, is a Kanuri; he is not a Hausa man. I want to warn these majority tribes that the Prime Minister is not a Hausa man.

I would like also to warn these majority tribes—the Hausas, Ibos and Yorubas—not to quarrel with themselves because if we put all the minorities together, we the minorities, will become the majority and they will become the minority.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : On a point of order, it is not correct that all the minorities in this country can ever come together to be the major tribes. I stand to accept the challenge of the Minister of Information that in all these Federal Corporations where people have complained an inquiry should be instituted into all of them. (*Interruptions*)

**Mr Speaker** : Order! I do hope that Members are thinking of what they utter in this House because some of the things are rather said thoughtlessly. I do not think such remarks will reflect very well on our debates.

**The Minister of Economic Development** (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim) : On a point of order, just in support of my hon. Colleague, the Minister of Finance, from all the statistics we have so far seen, it appears only the Yorubas, Hausas and Ibos have dominated all the positions—

*Chief Abii rose on a point of order—*

**Mr Speaker** : Order! I hope that the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) appreciates that the minorities must have their say.

**Alhaji Ibrahim** : In the lists that have been published so far, we have seen only the names of Hausas, Ibos and Yorubas. But as the

[ALHAJI IBRAHIM]

Minister of Finance has pointed out, the Speaker of this House himself is not a Hausa; he is a Fulani. Somebody quoted the Governor of the Central Bank as a Hausa man. He is half Fulani and half Kanuri. The Prime Minister is half Kanuri—he is not a Hausa at all—and half Fulani. The Permanent Secretaries who have been referred to as Hausas in one of the publications, are not Hausas at all.

It appears, therefore, that both the Ibos and the Yorubas have no case at all. They have discriminated against us the minority tribes. We have the Isekiris, the Urhobos, the Baburas, the Kanuris, the Ijaws and the Igbominas.

**The Minister of State** (Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju): On a point of order, I am speaking on behalf of the Yorubas both in the West and in the North, that we have no ambition to dominate any tribe.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja): On a point of order, just as I was coming in there was a discussion on the Floor of this House as a result of a matter raised by one of the N.C.N.C. Members of this House the other day. This matter has put me into a big trouble.

I want to say that my Chambers—Ogunsanya and Ogunsanya—dealt with the question of acquisition of land in Ikorodu as lawyers. There were three families—Adepose family, Oluodo family and the Sekunmade family. I have the documents and the receipts with me in this House.

Now that people have started talking about £75,000, I would say that it has given an unpleasant impression to our clients that the sum total of what they should have got they did not get. In spite of that, the Minister of Lagos Affairs' letter making the offer is here.

I want to say that the total amount for crops, one hundred and fifty plus acres of land, and buildings demolished was £22,500.

Out of the families we appeared for, there was one family which acted completely on its own; we did not act for it. Therefore, I feel that when Members get up on the Floor of this House and they want to launch an attack, it is only fair that they should investigate their facts before getting up. I want to say that that is in so far as three out of the four we acted for go. It is very unfair for this sort of thing

to come on the Floor of this House without people checking up.

**Mr Speaker**: Order! Now that Members have finished all their tribal talks, I hope that is the end of it.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North): On the 9th April, when I raised a matter on the Motion for Adjournment as regards the Morgan Salaries and Wages Commission, the Minister of Finance made the following statements. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote—

*“Chief Okotie-Eboh: As the Leader of this House I insist that the Member for Owerri North (Mr Mbah) is trying to incite workers on the Floor of this House. He should not do that. He is planning a revolution. (Interruptions).”*

This is not true. I think all Members have a duty to fight for social justice, peace and happiness in Nigeria and we are doing this in the belief that the purpose of Government is the welfare of the people. I am dedicated to this task and I am not alone.

On the question of revolution or inciting anybody against the Government, it is quite untrue as far as I am concerned.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: I would accept the denial by the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*), but if he would read his own speech he would know that he cannot give meanings to words according to his own dictionary. He must give meanings to words as they are in a statement. His statement was obviously revolutionary when he was saying that if we did not increase the wages of workers, we must face the consequences and so on. What does he mean by that?

If people are afraid of the meaning attachable to their words, they should choose their words very carefully.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North): On a point of order, as a Member of this House, I am entitled to explain myself and I have explained myself to the House. It seems to me that in spite of what I have said, the Minister of Finance is trying to revive those things.



House of Representatives Debates

2221 [Customs Tariff Order]

11 APRIL 1964

[Customs Tariff Order]

2222

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

ADJOURNMENT (SINE DIE)

**Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh** : I beg to move—  
That this House at its rising *This Day* do adjourn *sine die*.

I think that after all these hectic days, Members would like to go home and rest in peace and not in pieces. I really feel that we have just had one of the most difficult meetings since we started ; but I believe that these things do not go deep and that when we go home and also by the time we come back to this House, the well-meaning leaders of this country will get together and bridge the gap.

I wish Members good-luck and safe return again. Those Members who say we should call quick meetings should be prepared to come back as quickly as possible when we ask them to come.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (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 *sine die*.

CUSTOMS TARIFF (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS)  
(No. 4) ORDER, 1964

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I beg to move—  
That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 4) Order, 1964 (Legal Notice No. 42 of 1964), a copy of which was laid before this House on 8th April, be confirmed.

**Minister of State** (Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju) : I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 4) Order, 1964 (Legal Notice No. 42 of 1964), a copy of which was laid before this House on 8th April, be confirmed.

CUSTOMS TARIFF (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS)  
(No. 5) ORDER, 1964

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I beg to move—  
That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 5) Order, 1964 (Legal Notice No.

43 of 1964), a copy of which was laid before this House on 8th April, be confirmed.

**Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju** : I beg to second.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Finance for having successfully introduced his new tariffs.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : On a point of order, Mr Speaker, will you kindly advise my hon. Friend the Minister of Information to go to his seat. He is sitting here and giving us a lot of trouble. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker** : Order ! The Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) can see that half the Ministers who are here are behind the Minister.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : On a point of order—

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : On a point of order—

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I take precedence over the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*). He should sit down.

All I was going to say is that by the clothes they wear, there is no difference between Benson and Olu.

**Mr Benson** : On a point of order, these people are wasting their time. When I occupied the seat—(*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker** : Order ! Members who act as meteorites over the Benches, jumping from one place to another, really do cause a lot of humour.

**Mr Mbazulike Amechi** : On a point of order, the hon. Minister of Information was not speaking from his seat.

**Mr Speaker** : I have not yet allocated a seat to him.

**Mr Akwivu** : I was saying that I congratulate the Minister of Finance for successfully piloting through his duty changes. A lot has been said about the imposition of duties so far and I do not think we need say a lot more about it. We do hope that in future he will try as much as possible to minimise the hardships that the sudden imposition of duties cause on the people.

[MR AKWIWU]

During the course of last year, a number of our indigenous importers had been very adversely affected by the sudden imposition of duties. I know the timing of it is not easy, but I do hope that such arrangements could be made to ensure that whenever any duty increases come into effect, they will inflict the least possible hardships.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South): Even though Members are very interested in running away, I must seize this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Finance for making an effort to protect our industries through his tariffs.

I have to say that even though this is the case, he should really exercise caution in imposing some of these duties, especially when these duties are going to affect the ordinary man in the street. By this I refer to the second-hand clothing which has almost upset the whole of Eastern Nigeria and not only Eastern Nigeria, but even the Western Region, where the masses of the people depended on these second-hand clothings for their trade and other articles people use. A sudden tax was imposed on these secondhand clothings last year so that many people were greatly affected by it.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: On a point of order, the Motion which I have moved has nothing to do with secondhand clothing whatsoever, nothing at all, and it will help us if these secondhand Parliamentarians keep quiet.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*: That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 5) Order, 1964 (Legal Notice No. 43 of 1964), a copy of which was laid before this House on 8th April, be confirmed.

#### ADJOURNMENT (SINE DIE)

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

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): Much as I want the House to adjourn *sine die*, I think the Minister of Finance has not been fair to this House by not allowing us to debate in full the Motions brought before this House to-day. We have only been here for thirty minutes.

What have we come to do if the Minister of Finance cannot give us at least one hour or so to debate these Motions?

We say aye, aye. What are we ayeing? The two Motions deal with duty exemptions and we want to know what are those things that he is going to exempt from paying duties to this country as he did not allow us to debate them and we are now closing. What is the use of our coming here? We were told that we were going to sit for six weeks, but we have only sat for some twenty-six days. We have not even completed one month. Why are we rushing home?

**Mr Speaker**: Order! There is too much noise in the House.

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu): I want the hon. Minister of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations to seize this opportunity to explain the allegation that there is discrimination and that there is tribalism in the External Affairs Ministry. I say this because I know the hon. Minister is very honest, non-tribalistic and straight-forward. I feel that he should seize this opportunity to clarify the situation in order to agree or compromise with the advice given to us here yesterday by the Prime Minister.

**The Minister of External Affairs** (Dr Jaja Wachuku): I take it that the hon. Member is referring to a document which is termed "*Discrimination Against Yoruba Employees in the Federal Civil Service, Corporations, etc.*". They say it is "The Reply to the NCNC Answer". Page one of it, amongst all the various types of discrimination they were talking about (if I may read out the first paragraph) says—"Gentlemen of the Press".

Apparently, the portion is signed by R. A. Fani-Kayode and the second part of it is signed by one V. Olu Fayemi and S. R. B. Okoro, who are accusing some people of being arch-traitors. In any case, the part that concerns me as the Minister of External Affairs reads as follows (I think it is the first paragraph that is referred to)—

*"The publication and issue by the Western Nigeria Government—"*

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): From what we all heard from the Prime Minister yesterday I do not think any of these papers should be brought here for discussion again.

House of Representatives Debates

2225

[Adjournment (Sine Die)]

11 APRIL 1964

[Adjournment (Sine Die)]

2226

Therefore, this debate should not be allowed to go on. If this debate is allowed to go on it would mean that we have not heeded the advice of the Prime Minister. I think the Prime Minister dealt at length yesterday with this matter and said that all pamphlets dealing with tribalism should be destroyed. I want to emphasise that if this debate is allowed to go on then it means that the Prime Minister's words hold no water in this House.

I oppose this debate on the question of tribalism, and it should not go on.

**Mr Speaker :** If the hon. Minister would avoid tribal provocation that would help us a good deal.

**Dr Jaja Wachuku :** The question is that it is very bad for the Foreign Service to be accused of tribalism. That is the point. What I am also saying is that there is no discrimination whatsoever in the Foreign Service, and my point, as far as I am concerned, is that since I became the Minister of External Affairs a fair attitude has been adopted all along.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) :** On a point of order, the Minister of Information is disturbing the Official Reporters in the Official Box.

**Mr Speaker :** It is right for the Minister of Information to get information from the Official Reporters while they are in the Chambers, and, in fact, he is entitled to get as much information as possible from them.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson :** I received a note from the Official Reporters asking me to supply a copy of my Ministerial Statement, and with your permission, Sir, I shall read the note :

*The Official Reporters would be obliged if you would kindly supply a copy of the Ministerial Statement made this morning.*

That was what I was doing.

**Mr Speaker :** I do not think there is any objection to that.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That this House do now adjourn sine die.

*Adjourned accordingly at fifteen minutes to ten o'clock.*

## WRITTEN ANSWERS—16th MARCH, 1964

### COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

#### Company Law

**O.25. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry if in view of the special importance of Company Law in this stage of our economic development, he intends to introduce a comprehensive legislation amending the existing obsolete one.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry :** Yes, steps are being taken to ensure that a draft bill is brought before the House as soon as the Committee set up by the Hon. Attorney-General on the revision of the Law reports back.

	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 (to March) ..	5	10	10	12	1	38
Grand Total .. .. .						247

### New Industries

**O.26. Mr S. Nnaji** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will state how many industries have been established in this country since October 1960 and where they are sited.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry :** With the permission of this House, I should like to give a joint answer to Oral question O.26, O.97 and O.215 which are very similar in context. Industries are not required to register with the Ministry. Thus it has been difficult to keep abreast with the rapid pace at which industries are established in the country to-day. However the number of industries employing more than ten persons, so far, recorded in the "Industrial Directory" is as follows :—

## 19th March, 1964

### LAGOS AFFAIRS

#### Conservancy Labourers

**O.93. Mr D. O. Ahamefule** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, if he is aware that Conservancy Labourers in Lagos dress like women while discharging their duties, thereby giving false impression to visitors in Lagos, and if he will cause the Lagos City Council to put a stop to this practice.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs :** I am not aware that the conservancy labourers in Lagos dress like women. However, I am aware that it is the practice of these labourers to disguise their faces and persons when they are carrying out their duties.

### L.E.D.B. Tenants

**O.94. Mr F. U. Ihe** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, whether he will not revise the policy on locked-up houses (in low income workers' quarters) at Surulere in order to enable new tenants to occupy them without having to pay the arrears of rent which the former tenants had failed to pay.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs :** The policy of the Lagos Executive Development Board with regard to defaulting tenants in the Housing Estates is that they are evicted on the strength of Court Order and the vacant houses are let immediately to applicants on the Board's waiting list. It is not the policy of the Board to ask new tenants to pay the arrears of rent of defaulting tenants.

## 23rd March, 1964

### TRANSPORT

#### Zaria Aerodrome

**O.221. Mallam Yusha'u Mohammed** asked the Minister of Transport whether he will consider reopening the Zaria aerodrome.

**The Minister of Aviation :** The aerodrome at Zaria is not closed and therefore the question of reopening it does not arise. The Zaria aerodrome is available for use during the hours of daylight, and any aircraft for which the aerodrome is suitable may use it.

**O.629. Mallam Yusha'u A. Mohammed** asked the Minister of Transport whether in view of the importance of Zaria as a centre of learning he would reopen the Zaria aerodrome.

**The Minister of Transport :** Zaria aerodrome is still open for operation and is used by light aircraft. Schedule services by Nigeria Airways were withdrawn due to lack of sufficient traffic. The reintroduction of such services will depend on the growth of traffic.

#### Nigeria Airways

**O.228. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Transport, how many aircraft has the Nigeria Airways ; and how many Nigerians are being trained as commercial pilots.

**The Minister of Transport :** Nigeria Airways owns 5 Fokker Friendship aircraft, 6 DC.3 aircraft and 2 Aztec aircraft.

Eight Nigerians are now undergoing advanced training as commercial pilots.

### WORKS AND SURVEYS

#### Trunk Road Repairs

**O.171. Mr S. O. Kolade** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how soon all the major trunk Roads 'A' will be repaired in order to meet the hazards of the coming rainy season.

**The Minister of Works :** It is estimated that repairs to all the major Trunk Roads "A" will be completed by the end of July.

#### Building Projects

**O.288. Mr S. A. Oyewole** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will state all the major building and construction

projects above £100,000 which he has included in the Six-Year Development Programme ; and if he will state those already executed, those which have not been completed ; and what is the value of each.

**The Minister of Works :** The Road and Building projects included in the 1962-68 Development Programme are listed in the Estimates of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria 1963-64. The projects for which funds were released in 1962-63 are now in various stages of completion.

### INTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### Ahoada Warders Quarters

**O.239. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, if he is aware that of all the Government servants resident in Ahoada only the Warders are living in deplorable and dilapidated government quarters.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs :** No, Sir ! Permanent Quarters were built at Ahoada for an Assistant Chief Warder and 5 Warders during 1963-64 financial year. It is intended to replace the temporary staff quarters as funds are made available under the 1962-63 Economic Programme.

#### National Anthem

**O.119. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, what efforts the Government is making to see that our National Anthem is translated into our vernacular languages such as Hausa, Yoruba, Ibo and Efik.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs :** The Federal Government has already considered this matter and has agreed in principle that vernacular versions of the National Anthem should be made. A Committee comprising representatives of the Regional Governments, the Federal Ministry of Education and my Ministry is being set up to consider the details of the proposal.

### LAGOS AFFAIRS

#### Agbani Road Displaced Persons

**O.95. Mr S. Nnaji** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, what plans the Government has

to pay adequate compensations to the displaced landlord and land-owners, in respect of the area acquired for the mobile Police station along the Agbani-Enugu Road, near Enugu.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs :** Compensation is being assessed in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance, with particular reference to section 15 which clearly states the principles governing such assessments. The value of any interest is taken to be the amount which such interest if sold on the open market by a willing seller might be expected to realise.

If the amount of compensation assessed is below that expected by the person from whom interest is acquired, he may reject the assessment and the matter is then referred to the Courts for settlement. Under these provisions of the Ordinance there is no reason for doubt that displaced land-owners will not receive fair and adequate compensation.

### "Marina House"

**O.110. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, for how much the Marina House was purchased by the Government ; and if he does not consider the price too exorbitant in view of the comparative prices for similar buildings in the city of Lagos.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs :** I regret I am unable to give the information sought by this question as I am not aware that Government has purchased any building known as the Marina House.

### Lagos Traditional Chiefs

**O.200. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, how many Lagos Traditional Chiefs has he recognised ; and what is the annual income of each.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs :** There are at present eleven Lagos White Cap Chiefs recognised by the Federal Government. I do not know the annual income of these Chiefs as they are not paid by the Federal Government.

## 24th March, 1964

### FINANCE

#### Projects for External Finance

**O.185. Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Finance, how many of the items published in the "Projects for External Finance" for the period 1962-68 have been awarded and whether he will make a statement giving details of the awards.

**The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) :** the list of projects to which the Honourable Member refers was prepared as a guide for those Governments and International Institutions which have indicated that they are able and willing to assist Nigeria's Economic Development through grants and loans.

I must make it clear that it is in no way intended to be a list of contracts to be awarded. There is, therefore, no question of awards being made from it.

#### Insurance of Government Property

**O.186. Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Finance, what is the annual cost of insuring

all properties of the Federal Government, and if he will give the names of the Underwriters.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Government property is not insured. Government property is so extensive and diverse that the annual cost of full insurance cover would be very great. Taking one year with another, it is considered to be advantageous for Government to carry its own risks.

There are, however, a few exceptions to this general rule. Government does take out normal insurance cover in respect of civil aircraft, vessels under construction, and stores in transit.

I regret that I am unable to state the cost of such insurance or the names of Underwriters. Such insurance is arranged by the particular Department of Government directly responsible for the insured property, and the annual premiums are a charge against the relevant Departmental vote.

### Development Programme

**O.242. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Finance, what he intends to do to avert the slowing down of the pace of implementation of the Six-Year Development Plan, and to attract enough external loan for the development programme.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** With regard to the first part of the question I would refer the Hon. Member to the First Progress Report on the Development Programme which was laid by the Minister of Economic Development last Wednesday.

As for the second part of the question, I can assure the Hon. Member that no opportunity is lost of bringing our needs to the attention of those of our friends overseas who are able to help us.

### Economic Tours

**O.243. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Finance, what are the direct results of his economic tours of overseas countries.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Sir, it will be impossible, and indeed invidious, for me to claim that any particular benefits have resulted exclusively from my overseas tours. In the main the benefits which accrue from these tours are indirect benefits and it will be unrealistic for me to attempt to list or quantify them.

All my overseas tours have been undertaken in order to increase the awareness of the outside world of this country's economic potentialities, and to enlist the assistance of foreign friendly countries for what the Governments of the Federation are doing to improve the standard of living of our people.

In a sense most of the grants and loan assistance which we have been promised or received from foreign countries or international organisations, and the investments which we have been able to attract to the private sector of the economy and which I have reported to the House in my annual Budgets could be regarded as some of the results of my overseas tours but it will be unrealistic for me to claim to be solely responsible for bringing about these results.

Through these tours people in other countries now know and have developed a substantial measure of good-will for this country.

### Anti-Smuggling Aircraft

**O.244. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Finance, what effective results has the amphibious plane achieved in combating smugglers.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** The amphibious aircraft operated by the Board of Customs and Excise began patrols on 4th October, 1963. From that date to the end of February, 1964, it participated in six seizures.

But the true value of the aircraft cannot be measured by the actual number of seizures with which it has been directly associated. Its value is rather in the prevention of smuggling, and its effectiveness is shown by reports that since it began operating in the Calabar area, the price of palmoil on the Cameroon side of the frontier has risen 300 per cent.

## MINES AND POWER

### Power for Ikot-Ekpene, Uyo and Abak

**O.241. Chief R. A. Orok** asked the Minister of Mines and Power when he would supply electricity to Ikot-Ekpene, Uyo and Abak towns.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power** (Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika): the position in regard to the supply of electricity to Ikot Ekpene and Uyo was explained in answer to a question on 17th March, 1964, and the Honourable is referred to the Official Report for that day.

Abak is not included in a list of towns recently submitted by the Eastern Nigeria Government to the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria for possible inclusion in the New Towns Development Scheme, Phase II. The Honourable Minister is therefore not in a position to say when Abak will be supplied with electricity.

## 25th March, 1964

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### Gbogan and Odeomu

**O.189. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Communications, when he proposes to build a full post office between Gbogan and Odeomu since the Postal Agencies there are now inadequate to cope with the volume of postal transactions in this area; and if he will make a statement.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications:** The current units of work of Gbogan and Odeomu Postal Agencies are 35,520 and 17,863 units respectively.

Arrangements for the conversion of Gbogan Postal Agency to a Sub-Post Office have been completed and it is expected that conversion will take place shortly.

Neither Gbogan nor Odeomu is due for conversion to a full Departmental Post Office but it is likely that Odeomu will qualify for upgrading to a Sub Post Office shortly.

#### Auto-Exchange for Oyo

**O.190. Mr S. O. Kolade** asked the Minister of Communications, how soon he will instal

an automatic telephone exchange in Oyo in view of the frequent use of telephone there.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications:** As the existing manual telephone exchange has not yet reached the end of its economic life and is considered adequate to provide the required service, there are no proposals at the moment to provide an automatic exchange at Oyo. Consideration will be given, however, to the installation of an automatic exchange during the latter half of the current telecommunications development programme.

### HEALTH

#### Nurses' Promotions

**O.250. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Health, whether he is aware that nurses do not have regular promotions as other civil servants; and if he will improve the position.

**The Minister of Health:** Nurses are promoted as they gain experience and as vacancies occur in the establishment approved by Parliament.

## 26th March, 1964

### CABINET OFFICE

#### Police

**O.196. Mr A. U. D. Mbah** asked the Prime Minister, whether he will make a statement on the fact that the Police in Northern Nigeria refused to give protection to the Premier of Eastern Nigeria and the Premier of Mid-Western Nigeria during the recent N.C.N.C. Convention at Kano.

**The Prime Minister:** At no time did the Police refuse to give protection to the Premier of Eastern Nigeria and the Premier of Mid-Western Nigeria during the recent N.C.N.C. Convention at Kano. All normal security measures were taken by the Police.

**O.197. Mr George Yilgwen** asked the Prime Minister, if he will state, how many cases have been handled by the X-Squad; and whether the organisation is country-wide in its operation.

**The Prime Minister:** 213 cases of bribery and corruption have been investigated by the X-Squad since its inception ten months ago.

The X-Squad now operates throughout this country.

**O.199. Mr A. U. D. Mbah** asked the Prime Minister, if he is aware that the Minister in charge of the Police at a meeting with certain police officers made a statement during the Mid-Western elections to the effect that he had no confidence in police personnel of Southern Nigeria origin, and if he will make a statement.

**The Prime Minister:** No, Sir, I have been informed that no such meeting was held.

**O.118. Mr B. U. Ukpong** asked the Prime Minister, when the police quarters at Ikot-Ekpene will be extended to accommodate all the policemen now living in the town.

**The Prime Minister:** The expansion of the Ikot-Ekpene Police Barracks will be considered within the overall programme of housing police constables and officers throughout the country and depending on the availability of funds.



**O.345. Mr J. K. de-Omomadia** asked the Prime Minister, whether he will consider the establishment of a Police Station at Oleh the Headquarters of Isoko Division.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Alhaji Sanni Gezawa):** The growing importance of Oleh is recognised and a Police Station will be established there when funds are available.

#### Ministers' Tours

**O.117. Mr B. U. Ukpung** asked the Prime Minister, whether he will urge his Ministers to undertake more tours of the rural parts of the Federation to acquaint themselves with the way the masses of our people live.

**The Prime Minister :** The hon. Member's attention is invited to the reply to a similar question No. 824 published in the Parliamentary Debates of 18th September, 1963 which gives details of the tours within the Federation which Ministers have undertaken since the 1st of October, 1960. Ministers continue to visit rural areas as frequently as possible.

#### Road Accidents

**O.262. Chief R. A. Orok** asked the Prime Minister, what plans he has made to diminish the daily increase of motor accidents throughout the Federation.

**The Prime Minister :** The Federal and Regional Road Safety Committees, in regular and close co-operation with the Nigeria Police, device ways and means of reducing motor accidents.

For other measures contemplated by the Federal Government to reduce accidents and ensure greater safety on our highways, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the relevant portion of the President's Speech at the opening of this Budget Meeting.

#### Purchase of Shot Guns

**O.339. Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** asked the Prime Minister, if he will relax the regulations governing the purchase of shot guns in view of the fact that many Nigerian live on hunting.

**The Prime Minister :** No Sir. The regulations are sufficiently flexible to permit suitably qualified Nigerian to possess shot guns for hunting.

#### ESTABLISHMENTS

**O.194. Mr A. U. D. Mbah** asked the Minister of Establishments, if he is aware of a case in his Ministry where one out of two civil servants involved in a similar criminal offence was interdicted while the other was still allowed to continue working and if he will take steps to remedy the injustice.

**The Minister of Establishments :** I am not clear to which particular case the Honourable Member refers. If he will let me have further details, I shall be pleased to look into the matter.

**O.336. Mr L. O. Chikelu** asked the Minister of Establishments, which of the Federal Ministries and/or Departments are now completely Nigerianised.

**The Minister of Establishments :** The only Ministry which is completely Nigerianised is the Ministry of External Affairs.

The following Departments are also completely staffed by Nigerians :—

Government Coastal Agency  
National Archives  
National Provident Fund  
Parliament.

In addition no expatriate is employed in any of the posts shown under Head 61—Judicial—of the current Estimates.

The number of expatriates and Nigerians serving in each Ministry and extra-Ministerial Department on 1st January, 1964 is shown at Appendix 'A' of the 7th Report of the Federal Public Service Commission which has been published recently.

**O.337. Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Minister of Establishments, whether the qualifications for entry into the clerical service are of general application ; and if this is not the case whether he will make a statement.

**The Minister of Establishments :** The qualifications for entry into the clerical grade are of general application. In very exceptional cases applicants with adequate experience which

can compensate for their educational qualifications being slightly below the requirement are employed in posts where this experience will be most useful.

**O.338. Mr E. D. Akinbowale** asked the Minister of Establishments, when the Federal Government will implement the promise in April 1963, of raising the compulsory retiring age in the Federal Public Service.

**The Minister of Establishments :** The Federal Government has given no undertaking that the compulsory age of retirement will be altered. The matter is still under consideration.

### EDUCATION

#### Vocational Guidance

**O.202. Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Education, what are the functions and achievement of the "Vocational Guidance" section of his Ministry.

**The Minister of Education :** I would refer the Honourable Member to my answer in this House to the same Question by him, early this year, published at page 141 in the Hansard of 9th January, 1964.

#### Man O'War Bay

**O.203. Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Education, if he will state the cost of the buildings, equipments, staff salaries, maintenance, etc., of the Man O'War Bay since its inception.

**The Minister of Education :** I would refer the hon. Member to my answer in this House to the same Question by him, early this year, published at page 140-41 in the Hansard of 9th January, 1964.

#### University Entrance

**O.204. Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Education, whether he will consider introducing special entrance requirements to the University of Lagos for Businessmen, Parliamentarians, etc., who are willing to study Law or Commerce.

**The Minister of Education :** It is not proposed to introduce any such special entrance requirements into the University of Lagos. Discussions are, however, being conducted by the new Universities on the possibility of having joint Entrance Examinations along the Ibadan University pattern.

### Educational Grants

**O.208. Mr A. U. D. Mbah** asked the Minister of Education, if he will state the amount of grant or financial assistance given to each of the Regional Governments for the purpose of primary education from 1st October, 1960, up-to-date.

**The Minister of Education :** Recently, a grant of £200,000 was made to Northern Regional Government for the expansion of her Primary Education in order to bring it to the level obtaining in the other parts of the Republic. No such assistance was therefore given to the other Regions.

#### Inter-Regional Technical Schools

**O.359. Mr S. Nnaji** asked the Minister of Education, what plan he has to open up inter-regional technical schools in each of the four regions in Nigeria.

**The Minister of Education :** I would refer the hon. Member to my answer to-day in this House to his Question No. O.366 on this very subject.

#### Scholarships

**O.360. Mr V. A. Nwalieji** asked the Minister of Education, how many more scholarships he intends to award with the funds saved as a result of the reduction in the allowances paid to Federal Government scholars.

**The Minister of Education :** The Government does not fix rigidly in advance the number of scholarships it proposes to award in any one year. It is therefore difficult, if not impossible, to state the extra number of scholarships that may be awarded as a result of the reduction in student's allowances even if the resulting amount is easily ascertainable.

#### Assistance to Under-Graduates

**\*O.361. Mr V. A. Nwalieji** asked the Minister of Education, if he will give financial assistance to the destitute University undergraduates ; and if he will make a statement.

**The Minister of Education :** I am not aware of destitute undergraduates students in Nigeria universities. Financial assistance has always been given to deserving students within the limits of funds available but government cannot give encouragement to those who go into universities without scholarship and without assurance of funds in the hope that their financial burden will be carried by a benevolent government.

### Responsibility for Education

\*O.362. Mr N. D. Ukah asked the Minister of Education, if he will, in consultation with his Regional counterparts, introduce legislation to make education a federal subject.

**The Minister of Education :** I would refer the hon. Member to the result of a Motion on the same subject debated in this House last Tuesday, March 24, 1964.

### Qualified Non-Graduate Teachers

O.363. Mr N. D. Ukah asked the Minister of Education, if, in collaboration with his Regional Colleagues, he will endeavour to eliminate delays in approving promotions to the new scale of salaries for qualified non-graduate teachers.

**The Minister of Education :** I am not aware of any such delays. Nor do I understand what is meant by promotion to new salary scales because it is not, in fact, a matter of promotion. Any new scales are applied to all grades of teachers at once.

### Inter-Regional Secondary Schools

O.364. Mr I. O. Chikelu asked the Minister of Education, what progress has so far been made on the establishment of Inter-Regional Secondary Schools; and if he has plans to establish one in Mid-Western Nigeria.

**The Minister of Education :** Constructions of the Inter-Regional Secondary Schools at both Sokoto and Afikpo are already under way. Further, it is expected to start work, early in April, on similar school to be cited at Warri, Mid-Western Nigeria.

O.365. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Education, what progress has been made in the establishment of Inter-Regional Secondary Grammar Schools in each of the regions of the Federation; and whether he now proposes to establish one in Mid-Western Nigeria.

**The Minister of Education :** I would refer the hon. Member to my answer to-day in this House to a similar Question, No. O.364, by hon. I. O. Chikelu.

O.366. Mr S. Nnaji asked the Minister of Education, what plan he has to open up Inter-Regional Technical Schools in each of the four Regions.

**The Minister of Education :** There is no plan to open inter-regional technical schools in each of the four Regions. The Government, however, proposes to make grants-in-aid to technical colleges in the Regions in order to assist them in training technicians so badly required in the country. This accords with Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1961 on Educational Development for 1962-68.

## 31st March, 1964

### Labour and Welfare

O.367. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, why Nigeria was not represented at the Games of New Emergent Nations held at Djakarta, Indonesia.

**The Minister of Labour :** The Government of Indonesia which sponsored these Games did not send an invitation to the Nigerian Government nor to the National Sports Council but to a political party in Nigeria. Quite apart from the unorthodox method adopted by the Government of Indonesia, the attitude of the Nigerian Government is not to support any movement whose principal objective is to encourage unhealthy competition with the Olympic Games Association of which Nigeria is still a member.

O.373. Mr N. D. Ukah asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, what were the important findings of the recent survey of urban unemployment; and if he will make a statement.

**The Minister of Labour :** The hon. Minister of Economic Development is examining the findings of the recent survey of urban unemployment conducted by the National Man-power Board and when this is completed and the findings are published, he will make a statement.

### Mines and Power

O.377. Mr I. O. Chikelu asked the Minister of Mines and Power when he intended to tap the rich deposits of iron ore in the Udi Hills, west of Enugu.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power :** The Minister has arranged for information about the iron-stone deposits at Udi to be published and the attention, both of Government and Mining Companies, has been drawn to it. The actual exploitation of the deposits, however, does not lie within the Minister's portfolio.

**O.378. Mr N. D. Ukah** asked the Minister of Mines and Power if he would supply electricity to Mbaise, in view of the rapid economic development in this area.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power :** Mbaise is not a town in itself but the name given to a group of small towns and villages. It is not included in the list of towns recently submitted by the Eastern Nigeria Government to the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria for possible inclusion in the Corporation's New Towns Development Programme, Phase II. The Minister is therefore not in a position to say when the area will be supplied with electricity.

**O.381. Mr I. O. Chikelu** asked the Minister of Mines and Power what was the outcome of the tests commissioned by the Indian Government on Nigeria's coal.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power :** Representative samples of Enugu Coal were dispatched to the Research Institute Jealgora, India, some time ago. The Honourable Minister is still waiting for the result.

#### FINANCE

**\*O.393. Mr A. A. Odurinde** asked the Minister of Finance, if he will state the number of expatriate officers employed in the Central Bank of Nigeria and the number of indigenous officers holding executive posts in the Bank.

**The Minister of Finance :** Five expatriate officers are employed in the Central Bank, two of whom are lent to the Bank as Advisers by the United States Agency for International Development. All executive posts are held by Nigerians, at present numbering nine.

**O.394. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Finance, why there is a shortage of currency in circulation in the country

**The Minister of Finance :** I would refer the Honourable Member to my Answer to Question No. O.389.

**O.395. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Finance, if he will institute an inquiry into the repatriation of British capital by major companies in Nigeria.

**The Minister of Finance :** No, Sir. All movements of capital from Nigeria, whether to other countries within the Sterling Area or elsewhere in the world, are subject to the provisions of the Exchange Control Act, and require the Minister's permission. No purpose would therefore be served by an enquiry.

**O.397. Alhaji L. Daura** asked the Minister of Finance how much money the Government has collected as Custom duty at Jibiya, Kwangwalam and Zango border posts in Katsina Province in 1962-63 and 1963-64.

**The Minister of Finance :** Total revenue collected at the three Customs posts in 1962-63 and in 1963-64 to the end of February, was as follows :—

	1962-63			1963-64 up to end Feb., 1964		
	£	s	d	£	s	d
(i) Jibiya ..	491	4	6	1,609	18	7
(ii) Kwangwalam (Kongolam) ..	830	9	4	2,900	17	0
(iii) Zango ..	73	5	11	38	1	10

**O.428. Mr S. O. Fajinmi** asked the Minister of Finance, how much the Federal Government spent on the interim Mid-Western Nigeria Government up to 8th February, 1964.

**The Minister of Finance :** No direct expenditure was incurred by the Federal Government on the interim Mid-Western Nigeria Administration up to 8th February, 1964. The actual expenditure on the general election to the Mid-West House of Assembly, for which a total provision of £100,000 was authorised by the Federal Government will be fully reimbursed by the Mid-Western Region as soon as the total expenditure is known.

## 1st April, 1964

### ESTABLISHMENTS

**O.273. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Establishments, what is holding up the payment of pension and gratuity to the following officers who retired from medical service of the Federation since 1956 :—N. E. Elenwa, Mr Ajuzieogu, Ojeriakhi, Obikoya and Mrs Obikoya.

**The Minister of Establishments :** The officers in question were assigned to the Service of Northern Nigeria when the Public Service was regionalised in 1954. They subsequently declined transfer to this Region and therefore had to retire in accordance with section 186 of the Nigeria (Constitution) Order-in-Council, 1954.

Their entitlement to any retiring benefits was in accordance with the provisions of the Pensions Ordinance, but as none of them had reached the age of 45 they could not be regarded as having retired voluntarily, and were therefore not eligible to receive any pension or gratuity.

**O.274. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Establishments, whether the Federal Government has taken any decision on the retiring age of civil servants : and if he will introduce legislation to reflect the wishes expressed by this House on the subject.

**The Minister of Establishments :** I refer the Honourable Member to the answer I gave to a similar question No. 157 on 18th March, 1964 which reads :—

*The possibility of altering the normal age of retirement is still under consideration by the Federal Government.*

**O.401. Mr A. A. Odurinde** asked the Minister of Establishments, how many officers retired from the Service of the Federal Government between 1960 and 1962 ; how many of them are expatriate, how many are Nigerians, how many of these have received their gratuities and other entitlements ; and how many are still to be paid.

**The Minister of Establishments :** Five hundred and twenty-eight expatriate officers and seven hundred and seventy-eight Nigerian officers retired from the service of the Federal

Government between 1st of January, 1960 and 31st of December, 1962. All of them have been paid their retiring benefits.

### COMMUNICATIONS

**\*O.275. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider converting Abua postal agency into a sub-post office.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications :** The current units of business transacted at Abua Postal Agency is 18,204 which will qualify it for conversion to a sub-post office when my new policy is approved by the House.

**\*O.276. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Communications, how soon will Omoku Post Office be equipped with telegraph facilities.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications :** The establishment of a telegraph circuit at Omoku will not be economically justified at present but if unforeseen favourable circumstances develop further consideration will be given to the question.

**\*O.407. Mr N. D. Ukah** asked the Minister of Communications, what is the present volume of business transacted at the Ekwerazu postal agency in Owerri Division.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications :** The current units of business transacted at the Ekwerazu Postal Agency are 22,939 which entitles it to conversion to a Sub-post office shortly.

**\*O.411. Mr A. A. Odurinde** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will give the number of postal agencies in Ifon, Ilobu, Erin ; and when he proposes to build a full post office in the area.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications :** There is a postal agency in each of the districts mentioned

and the Units of business transacted are as follows :—

	1961	1962	1963
Ifon ..	3,759	4,043	3,660
Ilobu ..	8,716	8,259	8,500
Erin ..	7,136	5,796	5,121

The volume of business transacted in each of the three Postal Agencies is still below the level for conversion either to a sub-post office or to a Departmental Post Office. The building of a full Post Office in the area is subject to further consideration after the approval of my new policy paper.

## 2nd April, 1964

### CABINET OFFICE

**O.421. Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Prime Minister, how many members of the Nigerian Police Riot Squad actually lost their lives in the recent Tiv disturbances; and what has the Government done for their dependants.

**The Prime Minister :** Six Police Officers were reported killed during the recent Tiv riots. The dependants of those officers will receive compensation in accordance with the provisions of the Police Act.

**O.430. Mr A. A. Odurinde** asked the Prime Minister, whether he intends to summon a meeting of all political leaders with a view to discussing ways and means of abolishing the use of thugs at any future political campaigns.

**The Prime Minister :** The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply to Question No. O.917 published in the *Hansard* of 6th December, 1962.

### EDUCATION

**O.281. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Education, if he will consider giving capital grants to Regional Governments to enable them to tide over their primary and secondary education difficulties, and whether he proposes to take more active part in the regional primary and secondary education programme.

**The Minister of Education :** With the exception of £3,117,000 provided under the National Development Plan for the expansion of primary education the Northern Region (£200,000 of which was given to its Government recently), it is not proposed to give any such capital grants to the Regions.

**\*O.443. Mr A. A. Odurinde** asked the Minister of Education, if he will build the proposed Inter-Regional Secondary Schools at Ifon, Ilobu or Erin in view of the fact that there are no secondary schools in these areas.

**The Minister of Education :** The Federal Government decides on the location of an Inter-Regional Secondary School only after consultations with the Regional Government concerned.

**O.444. Mr A. A. Odurinde** asked the Minister of Education, how much it cost the Government to operate free primary schools in Lagos between April 1st, 1959 and March 1963.

**The Minister of Education :** During the period April 1959 to March 1963 the Federal Government incurred an expenditure of about £2,223,354 on the free primary education scheme in the Federal Territory.

**\*O.445. Mr I. O. Chikelu** asked the Minister of Education, if he will consider consulting his regional counterparts with a view to adopting a common examination for all primary school leavers for purposes involving a national certificate.

**The Minister of Education :** I do not propose to consult my regional counterparts in order to introduce a common examination for all primary school leavers in the country. Standards in these schools are not all that varied as implied in the Question because the content of their courses, all over the country, are geared to the Common Entrance Examination into our Secondary Schools and Colleges conducted by the West African Examinations Council.

## 6th April, 1964

**O.450. Mr A. A. Odurinde** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, if he will state how many people sentenced to life imprisonment are serving their sentences in Lagos Prisons; and how many were sentenced to death between 1959 and 1963.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs:** Sir, twelve prisoners are at present serving life imprisonment in Lagos Prisons. Only one prisoner was sentenced to death in Lagos between January 1959 and December 1963.

## COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

**O.214. Mr C. Tanguil Gaza** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry whether he will establish industries in the Benue Province in order to provide employment for the people there.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry:** The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question No. O.460 of to-day.

Industries will be established in Benue Province whenever the economic potentialities of the area prove that to be necessary and funds are available.

**O.256. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what is the purpose of establishing the Industrial Bank, the composition of its membership, what are the conditions for granting loans and how many such loans have been granted since the establishment of the bank.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry:** The purpose of establishing the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank Limited is to provide much needed long and medium-term loans for economically viable industrial and mining projects.

The composition of its Board of Directors is as follow:—

Chief M. N. Ugochukwu ..	Chairman
Alhaji Aminu Dantata ..	Member
Prince M. A. Ogun ..	Member

Chief G. B. Ometan ..	Member
Mr Victor E. Rockhill ..	Member
Mr Auguste Maffry ..	Member
Dr Silvio Borri ..	Member

Loans of £50,000 or more may be granted. As the Bank was established only on 22nd January, 1964, it has as yet not fully commenced operation. For further information, may I refer the hon. Member to the General Manager, Nigerian Industrial Development Bank Limited, Central Bank Buildings, Lagos.

**O.285. Mr S. A. Oyewole** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what industries were set up by the Government between 1st April, 1962 and 31st January, 1964.

**O.286. Mr S. A. Oyewole** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many more industries have been set up since April 1962 up to 31st January, 1964; and what are the names of the Industries.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry:** Sir, with your permission, I intend to take question Nos. O.285 and O.286 together.

As I have said on a number of occasions, Government does not establish industries by itself, but is concerned with creating the necessary climate for the development and growth of industries. To this end over 80 Companies have been awarded pioneer certificates which entitles them to a tax holiday period of between 2 and 5 years once they start production.

From the 1st of April, 1962, to the 31st January, 1964 the following pioneer Companies went into production:—

Nigerian Creameries Limited
Flour Mills of Nigeria Limited
International Paints (W.A.) Limited
Permacem (Nigeria) Limited
I.C.I. Paints (Nigeria) Limited
Askar of Nigeria Limited
British Paints (W.A.) Limited
Nigerian Processing Company Limited
Maiduguri Oil Mills Limited
Oil and Cake Industries of Nigeria Limited

Alcan Aluminium of Nigeria Limited  
Electrical and Mechanical Products  
(Africa) Limited

United Match Company of Nigeria  
Limited

Norspin Limited

Nigerian Textile Mills Limited

Metal Box of Nigeria Limited

Nigerian Glass Company Limited

Vitafoam Nigeria Limited

Clay Industries (Nigeria) Limited

Livestock Feeds Limited

Niger Sanitary Industry Limited

Michelin (Nigeria) Limited

Dunlop Nigerian Industries Limited

Crown Cork and Seal Company (Nigeria)  
Limited

Omimi Shoe Company Limited

Narakat Limited

Pioneer Biscuit Company Limited

Nigerian Leather Works Limited

Makeri Smelting Company Limited

Nigersteel Company Limited

It is expected that more pioneer Companies will go into production in the course of the current year.

**O.398. Mr W. O. Briggs** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what qualifications and experience are required for the post of general manager of bank; and whether the present holder of that post in the newly established industrial Bank possesses those qualifications and experience.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry :** The Industrial Development Bank is a comparatively new institution established by the World Bank in order to provide finance for the industrial development in newly emerging nations. Consequently there are very few of these bank established in the world to-day. To qualify, therefore, as a general manager, one has to have a sound academic qualification in economics, the theory of money, banking, and possibly statistics, and in addition one should have experience of working in a development bank or some training at the World Bank itself.

The present holder of the post, J. S. Raj, is not only eminently qualified as an economist; he has worked at the World Bank and above all,

has for over five years served as deputy General Manager of the I.C.I.C.I. which is the Indian Development Bank.

**O.399. Mr W. O. Briggs** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry whether the vacant post of manager of the Industrial Bank was ever advertised; and how many applications did he receive.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry :** No Sir. The concept of an Industrial Bank is a recent development by the World Bank for assisting industrial progress in the private sector of the economy of developing countries. So far only a few of these banks have been established. To ensure a healthy growth of such a bank during its early years, it has been found advisable for the World Bank to provide a General Manager with considerable experience.

**O.455. Alhaji L. Daura** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what are the conditions for setting up an industry in any area.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry :** The most important requirement is an adequate market for the product of the industry. Other conditions that influence the decision to establish an industry in any area are availability of raw materials, transport facilities, labour, power, water and land.

**O.586 Professor Kalu Ezera** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he is aware that unscrupulous persons go about registering new companies without necessary financial backing; and what he proposes to do to put an end to this practice and so protect the public.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry :** Yes, Sir, these fraudulent activities are causing my Ministry considerable anxiety. These activities are criminal and so fall outside the province of the Companies Act or the Registration of Business Names Act. Cases of such crime are to be reported to the police,



**0.587 Professor Kalu Ezera** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many brewery plants were in Nigeria before independence; how many there are now; and where are they located.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry:** The Nigerian Breweries Limited had two plants in Nigeria before independence, one at Apapa and the other at Aba in the Eastern Region. Since then Guinness Nigeria Limited, Ikeja, Nigerian Breweries Limited, Kaduna, Independence Brewery, Umuahia, and West African Breweries, Abeokuta have been added to the list.

**0.588 Professor Kalu Ezera** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, at what rates are beer and soft drinks produced locally; and what quantity of these drinks is still imported into the Country.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry:** The exact rates at which beer and soft drinks are produced locally are not yet readily available. But it is estimated that about 8 million gallons of beer and 130 million bottles of various sizes of different types of soft drinks are produced annually.

In 1962, 5,021,475 gallons of beer and stout, and 37,229 gallons of soft drinks were imported. During the first nine months of 1963, 1,332,852 gallons of beer and stout, and 24,927 gallons of soft drinks were imported.

**0.594 Mallam C. Tangul Gaza** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he will establish industries in the Benue Province in order to provide employment for the people there.

**0.595. Mr P. Tarkende** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he proposes to go on a comprehensive tour of Benue Province with a view of finding out for himself what sort of industry could be established in the Province.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry:** Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission, I intend to take Questions O.594 and O.595 together. It is not necessary for me to undertake a com-

prehensive tour of Benue Province in order to be able to find out what sort of industry could be established there. Industry, as honourable Members know, is a concurrent subject under our Constitution and the Regional Governments have responsibility for the industrialisation of the areas under their jurisdiction.

There is, however, very close liaison between the Federal Government and the Regional Governments on matters of industrial development. In addition, experts in my Ministry and from outside are commissioned to undertake feasibility studies of a wide range of industries with a view to determining, among other things, the most economically advantageous location of such industries.

#### WORKS AND SURVEYS

**0.464. Mr S. O. Oguno** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether he will consider the possibility of taking over the road which runs from Ogbomosho Oko through Ejigbo to Iwo and Ibadan, in view of the fact that this road serves as an alternative route to the Trunk Road 'A' from Lagos to Northern Nigeria.

**The Minister of Works:** No, Sir. Trunk Roads 'B' are the constitutional responsibility of the Regional Governments even though they may serve as alternative routes to Federal roads.

**0.465. Mr N. D. Ukah** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will consider the desirability of taking over the road from Oguta to Umuahia through Ikeduru, Ekwereazu and Obowo.

**The Minister of Works:** It is regretted that due to lack of funds it is not possible for the Federal Government to take over any Trunk Roads 'B' at least during the period of the current Economic Development Programme.

**0.466. Mr N. D. Ukah** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if, in order to ensure safety on the Owerri-Aba Trunk 'A' road, he will give urgent attention to the construction of a wider bridge across the stream at the foot of the Okpala Hill before the Imo Bridge at Owerri.

**The Minister of Works :** Tender documents are ready and the bridge will be reconstructed when funds are released.

**O.467. Mr N. D. Ukah** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will consider widening all sections of the Oweeri-Aba Road and replacing the narrow bridges with wider and more modern ones.

**The Minister of Works :** There are only two narrow bridges along the road and these will be replaced with wider and more modern ones when funds are released. There is, however, no provision in the current Development Programme for the widening of all sections of the road.

**O.469. Mr Y. A. Yacim** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will state why no official of his Ministry has visited Igala Division from January 1963 to date.

**The Minister of Works :** The mileage of tarred roads in Kabba Province is only ten. Frequent routine inspections are concentrated in areas where there are greater mileages of tarred roads. We do however get reports from the Provincial Engineer, Lokoja. As these do not give any cause for anxiety, we assume that routine inspections could well be less frequent. The road will be inspected in due course.

**O.470. Mr Y. A. Yacim** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he is aware that two bridges collapsed along mile nine on trunk road 'A' leading from Shintaku to Eastern Nigeria; and if he will state why the bridges have not been reconstructed up till now.

**The Minister of Works :** No report has been received from our Agent, the Provincial Engineer, Lokoja. But the matter will be investigated and necessary action taken.

**O.471. Mr N. Nwangbo** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how soon the reconstruction work on the Enugu-Abakaliki Road will start.

**The Minister of Works :** Funds are not available for the reconstruction of the whole of this road but work will commence shortly on rehabilitating and replacing the substandard bridges.

**O.472. Mr I. O. Chikelu** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will consider taking over the Abagana-Egbagbu-Olo-Uzo Uwani Road, and extend it to Alade and Idah in Northern Nigeria.

**The Minister of Works :** No, Sir. Owing to lack of funds it is not possible, at least during the period of the current development programme, for the Federal Government to take over any Regional roads.

**O.596. Mr O. J. Eminue** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether he will consider, now that the new design for Uya-Oron bridge on the Aba-Oron Trunk Road 'A' has been completed, the reconstruction of this bridge in the 1964-65 financial year.

**The Minister of Works :** Yes, Sir. The Uya bridge will be included in our programme for the replacement of substandard bridges in 1964-65.

**O.597. Mr O. J. Eminue** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if the resurfacing and widening of the Aba-Oron Road from mile 57 to Oron, will be completed during the next financial year.

**The Minister of Works :** The Aba-Oron Road from mile 58 to 61 was widened in September 1962. Work on widening the road will continue subject to funds being available. Resurfacing of roads is done to schedule every three years.

**O.598. Mr O. J. Eminue** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will include in the current Development Programme the construction of a Trunk Road 'A' from Maiduguri through Yola and Ogoja to Calabar.

**The Minister of Works :** Consideration was given to a reconstruction of the Trunk Roads 'A' complex serving Maiduguri, Yola, Ogoja and Calabar during the course of preparation of the 1962-68 Development Programme but it was not found possible to include the project in the present Development Programme.

It is well to remember, however, that the present system of Trunk Roads 'A' does link Maiduguri, Yola, Ogoja and Calabar except for a stretch of some 15 miles between Mfum on

the Cross River and the boundary where the Trunk Road A7—the Calabar/Mamfe—meets the West Cameroons when it is now necessary to motor into West Cameroons before re-entering Nigeria.

**O.599. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will make available to schools an up-to-date Map of Nigeria showing all the existing and projected Trunk Roads 'A'.

**The Minister of Works :** Yes, Sir. A road map of Nigeria showing all trunk roads and projected Trunk Roads 'A' has been compiled and is now at the reproduction stage. Copies of this map will be available about the end of April at six shillings each. Schools and educational institutions may obtain copies of the map at fifty per cent discount.

**O.600. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when a second bridge across the Imo-River at Mile 16 to along Port Harcourt-Aba road will be constructed.

**The Minister of Works :** The construction of the second bridge will be undertaken when funds are released.

**O.601. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will consider constructing a road from Port Harcourt to Degema via Isoba across the Ikwerre River to serve as an outlet to the Niger Delta Area.

**The Minister of Works :** I regret that owing to the limited funds available for roads in the Development Programme, it is not possible to include this new project in the 1962-68 Development Programme.

**O.602. Mr P. Tarkende** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether he will give urgent consideration to the possibility of reconstructing the narrow bridges between miles 15 and 16 ; 29 and 30 on the Makurdi — Jos road.

**The Minister of Works :** Yes, Sir. The route has been surveyed and on the release of funds the bridges will be reconstructed to heavy loading standards and provided with a 12 feet deck capable of being widened to 24 feet eventually.

**O.603. Mr P. Tarkende** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will state how many miles of Trunk Road 'A' are in Benue Province; and how many miles have so far been tarred.

**The Minister of Works :** There are 410 miles of Trunk Road 'A' in Benue Province. So far, 90 miles have been tarred.

**O.604. Mr P. B. Olatunde** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will give the names of all firms of contractors which tendered for the tarring of Ajassepo-Kabba Trunk Road ; and what was the value of each tender.

**The Minister of Works :** No contract has been let for the tarring of Ajassepo-Kabba Trunk Road.

**O.605. Mr P. B. Olatunde** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will give the name of the firm of contractors which won the contract to tar Ajassepo-Kabba road.

**The Minister of Works :** No contract has been awarded for tarring the road, but contract has been let to Messrs T. A. Oni and Sons Limited for road rehabilitation and replacement of substandard bridges on the Ajasse/Omuaran section of the road.

**O.606. Mr P. B. Olatunde** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how much will be spent on the tarring of Ajassepo-Kabba Road.

**The Minister of Works :** Funds have not as yet been earmarked for tarring the road.

**O.607. Mr P. I. Ejukwa** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when he proposes to tar the Trunk Road 'A' between Yahe and Ikom.

**The Minister of Works :** Funds are not available for the reconstruction of the whole road ; but sections may be rehabilitated and tarred and bridges strengthened or reconstructed as funds permit.

**O.608. Mr P. I. Ejukwa** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will state how much he spent on the maintenance of the Yahe-Ikom-Mfum Trunk Road 'A' in 1960, 1961, 1962 and 1963, respectively.

**The Minister of Works :** There was an expenditure of £9,450 in 1959-60, £10,000 in 1960-61, £16,400 in 1961-62, £16,225 in 1962-63 and £17,848 in 1963-64.

**O.462. Alhaji L. Daura** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether he will consider providing a road bridge over the River Niger at Jebba in order to reduce the present congestion there.

**The Minister of Works :** This is a major assignment for which provision has not been made in the current Economic Development Programme. There is, however, provision for two crossings on the Kainji dam and it might be more economic to capitalise on these crossings rather than invest at this moment on a major road bridge at Jebba. The question will be given exhaustive study when the impact of the Kainji dam is more fully felt.

#### TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

**O.477. Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, if he is aware that Nigeria loses thousands of pounds annually as a result of traffic congestion between Lagos and Apapa ; and whether he will consider, apart from the second bridge which will soon be undertaken, the erection of overhead bridges at various points on the road in order to ease the situation.

**The Minister of Works :** Yes, Sir. To relieve traffic congestion, we have made provision for overhead bridges at the salient points in the Development Programme. In fact, a contract for the first phase construction of both these bridges and a high-class road is in the process of negotiation.

**O.476 Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, what developments there are for the Iddo Oshun landing ground via Oshogbo; and whether he is considering the possibility of converting it to a full aerodrome.

**The Minister of Aviation :** There are no plans for any further development of Iddo Oshun landing strip. Nigeria Airways cancelled their services because of the low traffic offering and have not indicated any desire to renew them.

It is however our intention to maintain the strip in a serviceable condition for use by any suitable aircraft.

**O.483 Mr A. A. Odurinde** asked the Minister of Aviation, if he will re-open Iddo Oshun

aerodrome in Oshun division in view of the fact that the people of Ilobu, Ifon, Erin and Owo-ope constantly travel to Mecca and Medina, Ghana and other parts of the world.

**The Minister of Aviation :** The Iddo Oshun airstrip is not closed, and therefore the question of re-opening does not arise. Nigeria Airways cancelled their services because of the low traffic offering and have not indicated any desire to renew them. It is, however, our intention to maintain the airstrip in a serviceable condition for use by suitable aircraft.

**O.487 Mr C. O. Chiedozie** asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, how soon the construction and tarring of the Enugu airport will be completed, in view of the fact that the present situation there constitutes a grave danger to aircrafts.

**The Minister of Aviation :** The main runway at Enugu Aerodrome has been completely re-constructed and given an all-weather surface, *i.e.*, tarred.

**O.488. Mr V. A. Nwalieji** asked the Minister of Aviation, whether he will consider building an aerodrome at Nsukka in view of the importance of the town as an educational and commercial centre.

**The Minister of Aviation :** It is not practical to build aerodrome very close together. Enugu is only about 30 miles from Nsukka and it is well provided for by scheduled services of Nigeria Airways. It would be uneconomic for aircraft to land at two so close aerodromes.

**O.489. Mr V. A. Nwalieji** asked the Minister of Aviation, how many aerodromes are going to be built in Nigeria during the Six-Year development period, what is the estimated cost ; and where will they be located.

**The Minister of Aviation :** There is provision in the economic development programme for the building of aerodromes in those parts of the country where it is economically justified. The number and site of these aerodromes cannot, by this time, be stated.

**O.494. Mr S. Nnaji** asked the Minister of Aviation, if he is aware of the dirty conditions of the Enugu airport runway, what plans he has to tar it ; and how soon will it be tarred.

**The Minister of Aviation :** No Sir, the runway at Enugu aerodrome has been tarred.

## 7th April, 1964

## FINANCE

**O.496. Mr Gbolagunte** asked the Minister of Finance, if he will consider reducing the tax on soft drinks and increasing tax on beer and liquor in order to reduce the degree of drunkenness and waste in the Federation.

**The Minister of Finance :** No, Sir. The Minister does not contemplate such a line of action as it is not intended that the Tariff should be used as a means of enforcing temperance. I would however like to correct the implication in the question, that breweries cause drunkenness and waste in the Federation.

On the contrary, the breweries are making a substantial contribution to the economy both providing hundreds of employment opportunities, and from the point of view of the excise duty which is paid by them. In the financial year just finished, excise duty collected in respect of the industry amounted to well over £3,300,000.

## MINES AND POWER

**O.502. Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Mines and Power whether he was aware that Nigeria loses millions of pounds through electric power failures, and if he would make a statement.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power :** The hon. Member is referred to the ministerial statement made in this House last week which contains an explanation on power failure.

**O.628. Mr J. A. Akor** asked the Minister of Mines and Power how many companies had been granted licences to prospect for oil in Nigeria, and where they had struck oil.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power :** Seven oil companies presently hold oil prospecting licences in Nigeria. They are, the Shell-BP Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria, Mobil Exploration Nigeria Inc., Tennessee Nigeria Inc., Nigerian Gulf Oil Company and SAFRAP (Nigeria) Limited.

Shell-BP has found oil in the Niger Delta, Nigerian Gulf in their continental shelf licence Block "D" and Amoseas in their continental shelf Block "F".

**O.629. Mr J. A. Akor** asked the Minister of Mines and Power how much he had collected

as rent from oil companies other than Shell-BP Company for the period 1959 to 1963.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power :** Rents collected between 1959 and 1963 from oil companies other than Shell-BP amounted to

	£	s	d
Tennessee Nigeria Inc. ..	3,648	4	10
Nigerian Gulf Oil Company .. ..	1,555	0	0
Nigerian AGIP Oil Co. Ltd. .. ..	406	5	0
SAFRAP (Nigeria) Limited	234	0	0
American Overseas Petroleum Ltd. .. ..	600	0	0
Mobil Exploration Nigeria Inc. .. ..	600	0	0

*Material for Supplementaries*

In addition, these companies paid a total sum of £7,413,782 in premia on the issue of their licences. This sum is made up as follows :

	£
Tennessee Nigeria Inc. ..	921,679
Nigerian Gulf Oil Company	2,287,408
Nigerian AGIP Oil Co. Ltd.	1,507,337
SAFRAP (Nigeria) Limited	697,358
American Overseas Petroleum Ltd. .. ..	1,000,000
Mobil Exploration Nigeria Inc. .. ..	1,000,000

**O.630. Mr P. B. Olatunde** asked the Minister of Mines and Power when he intended to give electric light to the people of Offa in view of the fact that the wiring of the town was completed as far back as 1962.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power :** The Electricity Corporation of Nigeria has informed the Minister that the delay in commissioning Offa electricity supply is due to the delay in completing the Ibadan/Erinle 132 kV Transmission Line which has meant that the power available in the Oshogbo Complex is at present inadequate to supply electricity to the people of Offa.

The Corporation has informed the Minister that everything possible is now being done to enable the commissioning of this transmission line to be effective in a few months from now.

The Corporation anticipate that at any rate Offa will be supplied with electricity before the end of 1964.

**O.631. Mr P. I. Ejukwa** asked the Minister of Mines and Power when he would start work on the plan to supply Ikom and Ogoja Towns with electricity, as contained in the Six-Year Development Programme.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power :** The survey report and recommendations of the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria have been forwarded to the Eastern Nigeria Government, but no final decision has yet been taken on the towns to be included for development during the current Development Programme.

**O.632. Mallam C. Tanguil Gaza** asked the Minister of Mines and Power whether he had any proposals to carry out a mineral survey of Wukari Division.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power :** The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer given to a similar question on the 24th March, 1964, published at page 738 of the Official Report.

#### DEFENCE

**O.635. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Defence, when he will introduce compulsory military training for boys and girls leaving school.

**The Minister of Defence :** The introduction of compulsory military training for boys and girls leaving school throughout the Federation would involve large-scale expenditure on equipment, accommodation and instructional staff, for which there is no justification at present.

**O.259 Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Prime Minister, what plans he has for introducing compulsory national service throughout the country.

**The Minister of Defence :** There are no plans to introduce compulsory national service throughout the country.

**O.633 Mr P. Tarkende** asked the Minister of Defence, whether Tivs are being refused recruitment into Nigerian Army, Navy and Air-force.

**The Minister of Defence :** No. There is no discrimination in the recruitment of Armed Forces personnel. Selection is based on merit and fitness.

**O.634. Mr D. N. Chukwu :** asked the Minister of Defence, what arrangements he has made with the British or any other Commonwealth Government for the training of the personnel of the Nigerian Military Forces.

**The Minister of Defence :** Commonwealth and other friendly Governments make available from time to time, usually on request, facilities in their Military Institutions and Establishments for the training of our Military personnel. The Commonwealth Governments that provide such facilities are the United Kingdom, Canada, India, Pakistan and Australia.

**O.636. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Defence, how many women were recruited in the Army in 1962, and 1963 respectively.

**The Minister of Defence :** Nine women and 7 women were enlisted into the Nigerian Army Nursing Service in 1962 and 1963 respectively.

**O.504. Chief D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Defence, if he contemplates any defence agreement with the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union ; and if he will make a statement.

**The Minister of Defence :** No. The Federal Government does not contemplate any Defence Agreement with either the U.S.A. or the Soviet Union.

**O.505. Mr M. D. Ukah** asked the Minister of Defence, if he will see to it that our military installations and institutions are not concentrated in Lagos or any one Region.

**The Minister of Defence :** It is not true that Military units are concentrated in Lagos or any one Region. They are strategically dispersed all over the country.

**O.506. Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Minister of Defence, what is the criteria for the selection of candidates for military training overseas from the Nigeria Military Training College, Kaduna ; and whether these criteria are strictly followed.

**The Minister of Defence :** The criteria for the selection of candidates for military training overseas are fitness and merit as determined by Staff Selection, and Medical Boards. These criteria are strictly followed, bearing in mind the desirability for fair representation of the component parts of the Federation in the recruitment of Armed Forces personnel.

## 8th April, 1964

## COMMUNICATIONS

**O.647. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Communications, what is the number of post offices he has built in each of the four Regions in each of the years 1961 to 1963, respectively; and where were they built.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications :**

*Eastern Region*

1961	1962	1963
Omoku	Nil	Abagana Aguata

*Northern Region*

1961	1962	1963
Madoli	Kano	Zaria Lafia

*Western Region*

1961	1962	1963
Nil	Badagry	Ibusa

*Lagos Area*

1961	1962	1963
Nil	Apapa	Nil.

**O.648. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will provide a mobile post office in Awgu Division, Achi, Inyi, Ihe, Owelli and Nenwe, to serve as a temporary measure, pending the erection of permanent post offices in the areas.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications :** Mobile Post Offices are used mainly to provide postal services at places where there are no postal facilities. All the towns named are each served by a Postal Agency, and the provision of a mobile Post Office for the area will lead to reduction in unit figures of the agencies thus impeding the chances of early conversion of the agencies to Sub Post Offices.

**O.649. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Communications, if he is aware that telecommunication services in Eastern Nigeria are inadequate, especially between Enugu and Port Harcourt; and what proposals he has to improve the situation.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications :** I am aware that the number of trunk channels in Eastern Nigeria, especially between Enugu and Port Harcourt, is inadequate. This will be remedied in the current Development Programme.

Steps are being taken to improve the service on the Enugu-Port Harcourt route under step 1 of our development plan.

**O.657. Mr U. U. Eko** asked the Minister of Communications, when the rural telephone service for Ugep, Itigidi and Ediba will come into operation.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications :** Ugep, Itigidi and Ediba are being considered, together with many other towns, for provision of telephone service during the current development programme. The plans are not sufficiently advanced for me to say whether these projects can be provided.

**O.658. Mr U. U. Eko** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will consider establishing a mobile postal service for Ugep, Ediba, Usulutang and Ekuri Postal Agencies.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications :** The hon. Member should see the Answer to Parliamentary Question O.648 which is a similar question to this.

**O.659. Mr P. I. Ejukwa** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will provide telephone services to the Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation Establishments at Ikom.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications :** The possibility of providing service will be investigated when the ENDC applies for it to the Territorial Controller in Enugu.

**O.660. Mallam Usman Borkono** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will establish a postal agency in each of the following towns in Adamawa Province: Song, Fengrer, Gerei and Uba.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications :** Approval was given for the establishment of a Postal Agency at Song in February 1964. The prospective Agent selected by the Adamawa N.A. failed to report for training and the N.A. has been asked to select another candidate.

All efforts made to establish a Postal Agency in Gerei between 1959 and 1962 proved abortive. Furniture and fittings ordered for the Agency were received, but the Agency

could not be opened because the selected Agent could not complete his training as he found it to be too tedious. The N.A. was informed and no new agent was selected to replace him.

The Postal Agency at Uba is now operating. It was temporarily closed on 16-8-62 and re-opened on 17-12-63.

No application has been received for the establishment of a Postal Agency at Fenger. If the community applies in the usual manner to the Territorial Controller, P. and T. Headquarters, Kaduna, the establishment of the agency will be examined.

**O.661. Mallam Usman Borkono** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he proposes to convert Garkida Postal Agency into a sub-post office before the end of the 1964-65 financial year.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications :** The current units of business transacted at Garkida Postal Agency are 13,710. These are below the level for conversion to a sub-post office. It is therefore regretted that the Agency cannot be upgraded to a sub-post office at present.

**O.662. Mallam C. Tangul Gaza** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will connect Wukari, Makurdi and Ibi with telephones in

view of the fact that the existing telephone line running from Makurdi to Ibi does not pass through Wukari.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications :** I am not aware of any telephone line between Makurdi and Ibi. The Call Office at Ibi is connected to a small exchange at Wukari which is not linked to the trunk network.

Consideration is being given in the current development programme to the provision of an exchange at Ibi, a larger exchange at Wukari and their connection to the trunk network.

**O.663. Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Minister of Communications, how much was spent on renting Accounting Machines by the Posts and Telegraphs Division of his Ministry during the last three financial years.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications :** Rent for accounting machines hired by the Posts and Telegraphs Division has been paid as follows :—

1961-62	..	..	..	£460
1962-63	..	..	..	£8,342
1963-64	..	..	..	£11,240

These costs are far below the cost of actually purchasing the machines.

## 9th April, 1964

### CABINET OFFICE

#### Police Quarters

**O.522. Mr V. A. Nwalieji** asked the Prime Minister, what plans he has for building suitable quarters for senior police officers of the rank of Inspectors and Assistant Superintendent of Police.

**The Prime Minister :** Provision has been made in the 1964-65 Police Capital Estimates to build more quarters for 30 Superior Police Officers and 73 Inspectors of Police.

#### Police Posts for Nsukka

**O.523. Mr V. A. Nwalieji** asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider establishing a Police Post at each of the following centres in Nsukka Division :—

Umulolpa, Qmor, Nimbo, Enugu-Ezike, Aku and Iha-Amufu to protect the lives and property of the people so far away from the Nsukka Police Station.

**The Prime Minister :** The Survey of Police Establishment recommended that the Nsukka Police Station establishment be increased to that of a Standard Major Rural Police Station and that large Standard Rural Police Stations each of 44 all ranks be established at Aku, Eha-Amufu and Enugu-Ezike.

Provision has been made in the 1964-65 Estimates for an establishment of 12 all ranks for Eha-Amufu. Depending on the availability of funds, the other recommendations will receive consideration with other pressing needs during the current 1962-68 Development Programme.



**Police for Benue Province**

**O.665. Mr P. Tarkende** asked the Prime Minister, if he will increase the number of policemen in Benue Province in view of the increasing crime wave in the area.

**The Prime Minister :** Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to establish three more Police Posts at Keffi, Oturkpo and Gboko, all in Benue Province, for which provision has been made in the 1964-65 draft Estimates for 2 Sub-Inspectors, 3 Sergeants, 7 Corporals and 34 Constables.

**White Population in Nigeria**

**O.666. Mr P. Tarkende** asked the Prime Minister, what is the population of whites resident in Nigeria as disclosed by the 1963 census.

**The Prime Minister :** The figure is not readily available as the 1963 population figures have not yet been classified on the basis of the various ethnic and racial groups.

**LAGOS AFFAIRS****Lagos Housing Scheme**

**O.676. Mr U. U. Eko** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, whether he is aware that the Government Quarters at Surulere built exclusively for people in the lower income group are now being occupied by other classes of people; and if he will make an investigation.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs :** I presume what my hon. Friend referred to as Government Quarters, are the houses built by the Lagos Executive Development Board under the Lagos Housing Scheme, for workers whose incomes are below £300 per annum, and whose residential period in Lagos is not less than 10 years.

It is true that some tenants have been able to transfer their tenancy to other people on the grounds of kinship and temporary transfers from Lagos without the permission of the Lagos Executive Development Board, but where such are detected, the trespassers are evicted.

**EDUCATION****Service Conditions of Teachers**

**O.223. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Education, if he will consult with his regional counterparts on ways and means of improving the service conditions of teachers in view of the unique services teachers render to the country.

**The Federal Minister of Education :** The National Council on Establishments is responsible, *inter alia*, for looking, from time to time, into the service conditions of teachers. After the Report of the Morgan Commission of Enquiry, to which the N.U.T. has, I understand, submitted a memorandum, it might be necessary to discuss, with my regional colleagues, whether the present machinery should still cater for the interests of teachers or that a new body suitably representative of the teachers themselves should be set up.

**Retiring Benefits for Teachers**

**O.224. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Education, what conditions a teacher should fulfil in order to qualify for pension and other rights.

**The Federal Minister of Education :** Rules for the award of Retiring allowances and gratuities to non-government certificated teachers (to whom, I presume, the Hon. Member refers) are embodied in the Non-Government Certificated Teachers' Superannuation Scheme Rules, 1950, No. 17 of 1952. The class of teachers covered are defined in Schedule 'A' to the Education Ordinance, 1948.

**Assistance to African Authors**

**O.297. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Education, if he has ever received application for grant from the African Authors Association of Nigeria; and if so, what loans or grants he has given to that Association.

**The Federal Minister of Education :** I am not aware of any such applications. There is however an African Student's Authors' Club, at Onitsha, which has applied, not for grants, but "for recognition and advice".

The Federal Government, however, encourages authorship by subsidising, in suitable cases, the cost of publication of manuscripts by Nigerian writers.

#### Technical Institute in Awka

**O.298. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Education, if he will establish a Technical Institute in Awka Division in view of the technological propensity of its citizens.

**The Federal Minister of Education :** Two major technical colleges are already planned for the Eastern Region by the end of 1965. One will be sited at Enugu and the other at Port Harcourt. It is hoped that, by 1968, both institutions will turn out well over 600 technicians annually. Moreover, both colleges are being planned with a view to their future expansion in order to ensure the full-time training of all the technicians needed in the Region, including Awka Division, in so far as full-time training is concerned, during the next decade. There may, however, be some need for an institution, sited, say at Onitsha, to cater for part-time and evening work. But that is for the Eastern Region Government and the appropriate local authorities to decide.

#### Scholarship Awards

**O.677. Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of Education, why students who have passed the West African School Certificate Examination in addition to basic courses in City and Guild Examination are not considered suitable for award of scholarship to pursue non-degree professional courses merely because they have not passed the G.C.E. Advance Level.

**The Federal Minister of Education :** It is not correct to say, as the hon. Member said, that candidates, otherwise qualified for non-degree professional courses, are not considered suitable for scholarship awards. The truth is that scholarships are also awarded for non-degree professional or technical courses in subjects like Librarianship, Accountancy, Building Technology, Architecture, *et cetera*.

#### Scholarship Policy

**O.678. Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of Education, whether he will consider changing the policy of awarding scholarships entirely on merit to that of making the awards on the basis of 70 per cent on constituency allocation and 30 per cent on merit.

**The Federal Minister of Education :** No, Sir. Such a policy would be totally unacceptable.

#### School Textbooks

**O.681 Dr B. U. Nzeribe :** asked the Minister of Education, if he is aware of the fact that textbooks used in Nigerian schools have no bearings with Nigeria's social, ethical or cultural background, and are too expensive; and what plans he has to launch a programme for producing suitable textbooks written in Nigeria.

**The Federal Minister of Education :** Certain textbooks, for example, in the physical sciences, are suitable for use in any part of the world. Every encouragement is given to the writing of suitable books for Nigeria which require special treatment for local conditions. Local publishing is being encouraged and there are increasing numbers of local publishers and authors of textbooks.

#### Inter-Regional Secondary Schools

**O.682 Dr B. U. Nzeribe** asked the Minister of Education, what is the progress so far made in the Inter-Regional Secondary Schools proposed by his Ministry.

**The Federal Minister of Education :** I would refer the hon. Member to my answer to a similar question by hon. Chikelu published, under "*Written Answer—26th March, 1964*", at page 20 of the Official Report, Volume 15, No. 14 of 31st March, 1964.

#### Advanced Teachers' Training College, Lagos

**\*O.683. Dr B. U. Nzeribe** asked the Minister of Education, how many teachers are currently enrolled in the Advanced Teachers' Training College, Lagos, how are they recruited; and what is the distribution per Region.

**The Federal Minister of Education :** There are 261 students at the Federal Advanced Teachers' College, Yaba, regionally distributed as under :—

Federal Territory	—	145
Northern Region	—	53
Eastern Region	—	58
Mid-Western Region	—	4
Western Region	—	1

Briefly, the following selection procedure is adopted. First, applications for admissions are invited annually through the Gazette and

the daily papers. Second, applicants are screened by a Panel representative of the Heads of Departments at the College. Third, candidates who survive the screening exercise are interviewed by a Panel of Heads of Departments at Kaduna, Enugu and Lagos. Finally, each government is invited to sponsor the successful applicants from its Region.

### TRANSPORT

#### Oshogbo Level Crossing

**O.484. Mr A. A. Odurinde** asked the Minister of Transport, when he proposes to provide a gate at the Oshogbo level crossing in view of the danger the present one constitutes to the people of the area.

**The Minister of Transport :** The hon. Member's attention is invited to the reply to question No. O.10 appearing at page 97 of the Official Report of the Debates of this House for the 16th March, 1964. No applica-

tion has been received by the Level Crossing Committee for provision of gates at the Oshogbo level crossing.

#### Onitsha Ferry Service

**O.485. Mr C. O. Chiedozie** asked the Minister of Transport whether he will consider extending the Onitsha Ferry service from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily to ease congestion in the wharf.

**The Minister of Transport :** The craft and personnel operating the Asaba-Onitsha ferry service are already working to full capacity. The Onitsha ferry service is run daily from 5.30 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. everyday in the week. The necessary maintenance of the ferries has to be done after 7.00 p.m.

To extend the hours of service would invite mechanical break-downs to the craft which might ultimately disrupt the entire service. I regret, therefore, that I cannot extend the working hours to 9 p.m.

## 10th April, 1964

### INFORMATION

#### Information Officer in America

**O.292. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Information, if he is aware of the constant misunderstanding between the Ambassador in Washington and the Permanent representative to the United Nations over who has first claim to the services of our one information officer in America.

**The Minister of Information :** No, Sir.

### FINANCE

#### Overseas Missions

**O.391. Mr A. A. Odurinde** asked the Minister of Finance, what is the total amount spent on overseas Missions by the Federal Government between April 1960 and March 1962.

**The Minister of Finance :** Between April 1960 and March 1962, the Federal Government spent a total of £579,200 and a total of £800,172 between April 1961 and March 1962.

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### Proposed Independence for Fernando Po

**O.296. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of External Affairs, what is the attitude of the Federal Government towards the type of independence proposed for Fernando Po by Spain.

**The Minister of External Affairs :** The Nigerian Government welcomes all steps to bringing real constitutional advancement to territories under foreign control. The question of the type of constitution under which the island of Fernando Po secures independence is largely a matter for the people of Fernando Po themselves.

#### Repatriation of Nigerians

**O.453. Mr Y. A. Yacim** asked the Minister of External Affairs, if he will state how many Nigerians have been repatriated home from January 1959 to December 1963, and what were the reasons for their repatriation.

**The Minister of External Affairs :** Between January 1959 and December 1963, 7,200 Nigerians were repatriated from various coun-

*House of Representatives Debates*

49

[Written Answers]

10 APRIL 1964

[Written Answers]

50

tries abroad. The full details showing the countries concerned and the numbers repatriated from each country will appear in the daily record.

Gambia	..	..	..	..	1
Italy	..	..	..	..	1
U.S.S.R.	..	..	..	..	4
Total					7,200
					7,200

*Particulars for Daily Record*

Saudi Arabia	..	..	..	..	4,603
Sudan	..	..	..	..	2,346
United Arab Republic	..	..	..	..	121
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	57
United States of America	..	..	..	..	10
Pakistan	..	..	..	..	1
Ethiopia	..	..	..	..	1
Western Germany	..	..	..	..	13
Algeria	..	..	..	..	1
Tchad	..	..	..	..	2
Niger	..	..	..	..	1
France	..	..	..	..	3
Austria	..	..	..	..	1
Senegal	..	..	..	..	3
Ghana	..	..	..	..	15
Ivory Coast	..	..	..	..	3
Gabon	..	..	..	..	2
Cameroun	..	..	..	..	6
Liberia	..	..	..	..	5

All those repatriated from Saudi Arabia, the Sudan and the United Arab Republic were destitute pilgrims; 21 of those from the United Kingdom were destitutes while 30 were mental cases and the other 6 repatriated on account of ill-health. Similarly, 5 of those from the United States of America were destitutes while 2 were mental cases and 3 repatriated for reasons of ill-health. Of the 13 from Western Germany, 4 were mental cases, 7 destitutes and 2 repatriated because of ill-health. The only person repatriated from Austria was also a mental case.

All those repatriated from the other countries were stranded persons without any means of livelihood whose presence was not only a disgrace to the national prestige of Nigeria, but also resented by the authorities of those countries.

**Foreign Service Officers**

**O.525. Mr N. D. Ukah** asked the Minister of External Affairs, if he will state the names of Nigerian ambassadors and principal representatives abroad, when they were appointed; and when their respective tenure of office will end.

**The Minister of External Affairs:** Nigeria has one Permanent Representative at the United Nations in New York, 11 Ambassadors and 6 High Commissioners. A full list, giving their names, posting and other particulars required by the hon. Member for Owerri North East is as follows:

Chief S. O. Adebó	..	..	..	..	Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York was appointed on 1-6-62.
Chief J. M. Udochi	..	..	..	..	Nigerian Ambassador to the United States of America in Washington was appointed on 1-10-60.
Dr P. N. C. Okigbo	..	..	..	..	Nigerian Ambassador to European Economic Community was appointed on 1-2-63.
Mr N. A. Martins	..	..	..	..	Nigerian High Commissioner in Dar-es-Salaam was appointed on 1-10-63.
Alhaji Abdul Maliki	..	..	..	..	Nigerian High Commissioner in London, was appointed on 1-10-62.
Mr L. O. V. Anionwu	..	..	..	..	Nigerian Ambassador to Rome was appointed on 1-10-62.
Alhaji M. Ngileruma	..	..	..	..	Nigerian Ambassador to Cairo was appointed on 1-4-60.
Mr A. B. Oyediran	..	..	..	..	Nigeria High Commissioner in Freetown was appointed on 8-12-60.
Alhaji Ahmadu Waziri	..	..	..	..	Nigerian Ambassador to Jeddah was appointed on 13-10-60

*House of Representatives Debates*

51

[Written Answers]

10 APRIL 1964

[Written Answers]

52

- Mr A. I. Osakwe .. .. Nigerian Ambassador to Leopoldville was appointed on 1-9-62.
- Alhaji A. K. Koguna .. .. Nigeria High Commissioner in Karachi was appointed on 1-9-63.
- Mr B. C. I. Obanye .. .. Nigeria High Commissioner in New Delhi was appointed on 1-9-62.
- Chief M. E. O. Ejimofor .. .. Nigerian Ambassador to Bonn, was appointed on 19-5-62.
- Alhaji Bello Melabu .. .. Nigerian Ambassador to Yaounde was appointed on 1-10-60.
- Alhaji Abdul Razaq .. .. Nigerian Ambassador to Abidjan was appointed on 1-9-62.
- Mr D. C. Igwe .. .. Nigerian Ambassador to Addis Ababa was appointed on 2-5-63.
- Alhaji Isa Wali .. .. Nigeria High Commissioner in Accra was appointed on 13-12-63.
- Dr C. O. Ifeagwu .. .. Nigerian Ambassador to Moscow was appointed on 7-10-63.
- Mr S. Williams .. .. Nigerian Ambassador to Monrovia was appointed on 7-10-63.

# INDEX TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEBATES

## OFFICIAL REPORT

SESSION 1964-65

12th-26th March, 31st March to 11th April, 1964

### EXPLANATIONS OF ABBREVIATIONS

Bills : Read First, Second or Third Time=1R, 2R, 3R

Com.=Committee    Q=Oral Question    Q=Written Question

Figures in italics refer to Appendix

	<i>Column</i>		<i>Column</i>
<b>A</b>			
<b>Abba Yola, M. :</b>		<b>Ahamefula, Mr D. O. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1046-1047	Amaraku Postal Agency .. .. .	332Q
Com. Head 45 .. .. .	1837-1838	Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 55 .. .. .	1967-1970	Com. Head 31 .. .. .	1642-1643
<b>Abbas Rahah, M. :</b>		Conservancy Labourers .. .. .	1Q
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1112-1114	Debate on the Address .. .. .	176-178
<b>Abdu Kirim, M. :</b>		Defence Industries Bill .. .. .	461
Appropriation Bill :		Mbano Okigwi Postal Agencies .. .. .	331Q
Com. Head 54 .. .. .	1966-1967	Proposed Umuahia Aerodrome .. .. .	97Q
<b>Abii, Chief D. N. :</b>		Proposed West-East Railway .. .. .	97Q
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	623-634	Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill .. .. .	497
Com. Head 45 .. .. .	1838-1839	Renaming of Monuments bearing Colonial	
Insurance (Miscellaneous Proceedings)		Names .. .. .	1859-1861
Bill .. .. .	550	Supply of Police Vans .. .. .	387Q
Presidential Proceedings Bill .. .. .	424-425	<b>Ahmadu Angara Doma, M :</b>	
<b>Abubakar A. Ibrahim, M. :</b>		Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	993-994
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	848-857	<b>Ahmadu Fatika, Alhaji (Parliamentary</b>	
<b>Afanideh, Mr M. B. :</b>		Secretary to the Minister of Mines and	
Aba-Oron Road .. .. .	579Q	Power) :	
Annang Police Headquarters .. .. .	387Q	Appropriation Bill :	
Appropriation Bill :		Com. Head 54 .. .. .	1967
Com. Head 23 .. .. .	1481-1485	<b>Ahmadu Ribadu, M. :</b>	
Com. Head 25 .. .. .	1548-1550	Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 636 .. .. .	2155	Com. Head 40 .. .. .	1771-1772
Bills of Exchange Bill .. .. .	553-554	<b>Ajasin, Mr M. A. :</b>	
Broadcasts in Efik and Edo .. .. .	201Q	Appropriation Bill :	
Capital Expenditure Estimates :		Com. Head 54 .. .. .	1958-1961
Head 634—Information .. .. .	565-566	Com. Head 58 .. .. .	1999-2002
Defence Industries Bill .. .. .	456	Com. Head 623 .. .. .	2091-2092
Deployment of Soldiers .. .. .	197Q	Com. Head 627 .. .. .	2119-2120
Ekpenyong Atai School .. .. .	331Q	Com. Head 637 .. .. .	2167-2171
Ikot Ekpeni Raffia Industry .. .. .	109Q	Debate on the Address .. .. .	156-162
Ikot Ekpeni/Uyo Power Plants .. .. .	192Q	Education to be a Federal Subject .. .. .	790-794
Industries for old Calabar .. .. .	110Q	<b>Ajayi, Mr B. A. :</b>	
Nwaigwe Police Station .. .. .	387Q, 995Q	Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	657-664
Opobo Port .. .. .	582Q	Com. Head 24 .. .. .	1516-1519
Prime Minister to Tour .. .. .	996Q	Com. Head 36 .. .. .	1715-1719
Railway for Old Calabar .. .. .	583Q	Com. Head 624 .. .. .	2105-2106
The Financial Year .. .. .	729Q	Com. Head 636 .. .. .	2154
<b>Aghahowa, Mr D. E. Y. :</b>		Excise Duties (Amendment) Order .. .. .	598
Appropriation Bill :		<b>Ajibola, Mr A. A. :</b>	
Com. Head 33 .. .. .	1673-1674	Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1266-1271
Com. Head 41 .. .. .	1780-1782	Com. Head 39 .. .. .	1767-1768
Presidential Proceedings Bill .. .. .	420-421	Debate on the Address .. .. .	28-32
		Parliamentary Committee on Foreign	
		Affairs .. .. .	278

	<i>Column</i>		<i>Column</i>
<b>Akerele, Chief A. :</b>			
Queen's Counsel (Abolition) Bill .. ..	433	Distribution of Papers to Members .. ..	400
<b>Akinbowale, Mr E. D. :</b>			
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. ..	642-644	Made-in-Nigeria Goods .. ..	266-270
Com. Head 25 .. ..	1550-1552	Navy Bill .. ..	2197-2198
Com. Head 33 .. ..	1668-1669	Nigerian Legion Bill .. ..	517
Com. Head 34 .. ..	1675-1677	Presidential Proceedings Bill .. ..	412-413
Compulsory Retiring Age .. ..	13 Q	Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill ..	491-492
Debate on the Address .. ..	178-183	<b>Albatan Yerima Balla, M :</b>	
Electoral Register .. ..	1685 Q	Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. ..	1063-1068
U.N.O. Census Official .. ..	999 Q	Com. Head 24 .. ..	1498-1500
Ogunpa River Bridge .. ..	580 Q	Com. Head 44 .. ..	1795-1801
Retiring Age of Civil Servants .. ..	1225-1226	Com. Head 60 .. ..	2023-2024
<b>Akinjide, Mr R. O. A. :</b>			
Debate on the Address .. ..	15-20	Defence Industries Bill .. ..	446
<b>Akinloye, Chief A. M. A. :</b>			
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. ..	866-871	Maiduguri Airport .. ..	1904-1906
Debate on the Address .. ..	324-328	Parliamentary Committee on Foreign	
Presidential Proceedings Bill .. ..	413-414	Affairs .. ..	270-273
Resolutions adopted by the 52nd Con-		<b>Ali Monguno, Shettima :</b>	
ference of the Inter-Parliamentary		Appropriation Bill :	
Union .. ..	210-212	Com. Head 30 .. ..	1591-1592
<b>Akinyemi, Rev. J. A. :</b>			
Removal of Vehicles etc. (Lagos) Bill ..	477-478	Com. Head 31 .. ..	1643-1644
<b>Akin-Olugbade, Chief O. B. :</b>			
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. ..	1381-1390	Com. Head 32 .. ..	1661
Com. Head 23 .. ..	1489-1491	Com. Head 44 .. ..	1801-1805
Com. Head 45 .. ..	1835-1837	Bills of Exchange Bill .. ..	552
Business of the House .. ..	587	Capital Expenditure Estimates :	
Debate on the Address .. ..	115-122	Head 634—Information .. ..	565
Presidential Proceedings Bill .. ..	418-419	Debate on the Address .. ..	133-136
<b>Akomolafe, Mr A. :</b>			
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. ..	612-623	Distribution of Papers to Members .. ..	403
<b>Akor, Mr J. A. :</b>			
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. ..	644-647	Insurance (Miscellaneous Proceedings)	
Com. Head 25 .. ..	1540-1541	Bill .. ..	528-529
Compensation for Economic Trees .. ..	1852 Q	National Provident Fund Bill .. ..	1413
Federal Government Scholars .. ..	2053 Q	Nigerian Legion Bill .. ..	518
Loans to Nigerian Farmers .. ..	1693 Q	Presidential Proceedings Bill .. ..	424
Oil Companies Rent .. ..	35 Q	Queen's Counsel (Abolition) Bill .. ..	433
Progress on Six-Year-Plan .. ..	1944 Q	Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill ..	476
Proposed Etche Police Post .. ..	2049 Q	Service Conditions of Police Officers ..	1187-1189
Prospecting Licences for Oil .. ..	35 Q	<b>Aliyu Ali Gwarzo, M :</b>	
<b>Akpan, Mr P. O. :</b>			
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. ..	664-671	Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. ..	934-936
Com. Head 25 .. ..	1541-1543	<b>Amadi, Mr F. A. M. :</b>	
Com. Head 626 .. ..	2114-2115	Accounting Machine .. ..	42 Q
Constituency Delimitation .. ..	999 Q	Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. ..	1138-1146
Joint Academic Council .. ..	2053 Q	Com. Head 25 .. ..	1560-1563
Legalisation of locally made gin .. ..	1691 Q	Com. Head 623 .. ..	2088-2089
Nung Udoo Postal Agency .. ..	1949 Q	Clerical Service Qualifications .. ..	12 Q
Power for Uyo and Ikot Ekpene .. ..	1851 Q	Conversion of Postal Agencies .. ..	1313 Q
<b>Akwiwu, Mr E. C. :</b>			
Appropriation Bill :		Criteria for Military Training Overseas ..	38 Q
Com. Head 21 .. ..	1439-1441	Defence Industries Bill .. ..	458
Com. Head 30 .. ..	1595-1601	Education to be a Federal Subject .. ..	769-776
Com. Head 621 .. ..	2076-2080	Eha-Amufu Post Office .. ..	1948 Q
Business of the House .. ..	1436-1437	Establishment of Industries .. ..	1690 Q
Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions)		Establishment of Inter-Regional Secondary	
(No. 5) Order, 1964 .. ..	2222-2223	Grammar Schools .. ..	16 Q
<b>Aminu Kano, Alhaji :</b>			
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. ..	1325-1334	Insurance (Miscellaneous Proceedings)	
Com. Head 24 .. ..	1529-1531	Bill .. ..	525-527
Com. Head 25 .. ..	1543-1545	Nsukka-Enugu Link .. ..	845 Q
Distribution of Papers to Members .. ..	400	Nsukka Post Office .. ..	1313 Q, 1948 Q

	Column
<b>Announcement</b> .. .. .	1-2
<b>Appropriation (1964-65) Bill</b> ( <i>see</i> Bills)	
<b>Araka, Mr E. O. :</b>	
Debate on the Address .. .. .	301-309
Presidential Proceedings Bill .. .. .	427-428
<b>Atiku Kano, Alhaji :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. .. .	874-876
<b>Aviation, Minister of</b> (Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe) :	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. .. .	1350-1354
Debate on the Address .. .. .	183-190
Maiduguri Airport .. .. .	1907-1908
<b>Ayeni, Mr U. O. :</b>	
African Common Market .. .. .	1878-1882
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. .. .	1126-1135
Com. Head 25 .. .. .	1567-1569
Com. Head 633 .. .. .	2145-2146
Com. Head 636 .. .. .	2154-2155
Postal Facilities in Rural Areas .. .. .	1251

## B

<b>Babatunde, Mr S. A. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. .. .	1361-1370
Business of the House .. .. .	205
Ilorin Railway Station .. .. .	101 Q
Presidential Proceedings Bill .. .. .	416-417
Publication of the Official Report .. .. .	1630
Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill .. .. .	480
<b>Balang U. Barami, M :</b>	
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 636 .. .. .	2153-2154
<b>Bello Dandago, Alhaji :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. .. .	689-694
Debate on the Address .. .. .	153-155
<b>Bills :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	4
2R .. .. .	340
Com. .. .. .	1437
3R .. .. .	2041
Bills of Exchange Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	4
2R .. .. .	551
Com. .. .. .	553
3R .. .. .	553
Defence Industries Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	340
2R .. .. .	441
Com. .. .. .	454
3R .. .. .	463
Excise (Control of Distillation) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	1314
2R .. .. .	2198
Com. .. .. .	2202
3R .. .. .	2204
Insurance (Miscellaneous Proceedings) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	5
2R .. .. .	520
Com. .. .. .	536
3R .. .. .	547

	Column
<b>Lagos Executive Development Board (Powers) Bill :</b>	
Presented and 1R .. .. .	4
2R .. .. .	468
Com. .. .. .	469
3R .. .. .	471
<b>National Provident Fund Bill :</b>	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	1167
2R .. .. .	1404
Com. .. .. .	1411
3R .. .. .	1413
<b>Navy Bill :</b>	
Presented 1R .. .. .	1167
2R .. .. .	2194
Com. .. .. .	2197
3R .. .. .	2197
<b>Nigerian Legion Bill :</b>	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	5
2R .. .. .	500
Com. .. .. .	514
3R .. .. .	518
<b>Nurses and Midwives Bill :</b>	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	5
<b>Presidential Proceedings Bill :</b>	
Presented and 1R .. .. .	4
2R .. .. .	403
Com. .. .. .	424
3R .. .. .	430
<b>Queen's Counsel (Abolition) Bill :</b>	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	4
2R .. .. .	431
Com. .. .. .	438
3R .. .. .	439
<b>Registered Land Bill :</b>	
Presented and 1R .. .. .	5
2R .. .. .	554
Com. .. .. .	560
3R .. .. .	561
<b>Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill :</b>	
Presented and 1R .. .. .	204
2R .. .. .	471
Com. .. .. .	491
3R .. .. .	496
<b>Supplementary Appropriation (1963-64) (No. 2) Bill :</b>	
Presented and 1R .. .. .	403
2R .. .. .	467
Com. .. .. .	562
3R .. .. .	562
<b>Bill of Exchange Bill</b> ( <i>see</i> Bills)	
<b>Briggs, Mr W. O. :</b>	
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 21 .. .. .	1444-1447
Com. Head 22 .. .. .	1457-1460
Business of the House .. .. .	1436
Capital Expenditure Estimates :	
Head 634-Information .. .. .	569-570
Convenience of Members .. .. .	833-834
Debate on the Address .. .. .	137-146



	<i>Column</i>
Distribution of Papers to Members ..	400
General Manager of Bank ..	25 Q
Mr Chou-en-lai ..	1005 Q
Post of Industrial Bank Manager ..	26 Q
Queen's Counsel (Abolition) Bill ..	437
Registered Land Bill ..	561-562
Service Conditions of Police Officers ..	1184-1187

**Brown, Mr I. A. :**

Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 22 ..	1448-1451
Business Statement ..	2-4, 505
Debates on the Address ..	12-15
National Provident Fund Bill ..	1412
Postal Facilities in Rural Areas ..	1250-1251
Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill ..	474-475
Resolution adopted by the 52nd Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union .. 217-221	
Retiring Age of Civil Servants ..	1223-1225
Sitting of the House ..	506
<b>Business Statement</b> ..	<b>2-3, 505, 1633</b>

**C**

**Chiedozie, Mr C. O. :**

Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 23 ..	1471-1473
Com. Head 33 ..	1669-1670
Com. Head 39 ..	1768-1770
Com. Head 638 ..	2178-2180
Construction and tarring of Enugu Airport ..	34 Q
Debate on the Address ..	75-81
Flood Commission ..	1892-1900
Housing Scheme for low income workers ..	225-227
Improvements in the conditions of service of Police Officers ..	1168-1179
Insurance (Miscellaneous Proceedings) Bill ..	543
Mr Daniel O'farm ..	2204-2205
National Provident Fund Bill ..	1409-1410
National Transport Board ..	795-802
Nigerian Legion Bill ..	514-515
Ogbete and Uwani Post Offices ..	844 Q
Onitsha Ferry Service ..	43 Q
Overhead Bridges along Western Avenue ..	1887-1888
Pharmacists ..	830
Police Dogs ..	1430 Q
Presidential Proceedings Bill ..	429-430
Provisional Government of Angola ..	1682
Salary of junior Police Officers ..	1430 Q
Sitting of the House ..	506
Status of Pharmacists ..	838 Q
Substitute Honour for Queen's Counsel ..	1631
Quarters for Enugu Police ..	1430 Q

**Chikelu, Mr I. O. :**

Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	952-956
Com. Head 24 ..	1515-1516
Com. Head 50 ..	1925-1928
Capital Expenditure Estimates :	
Head 627—Communications ..	563-564
Common Examination for Primary School	
Leavers ..	22 Q
Defence Industries Bill ..	462
Federal Ministries ..	12 Q
Inter-Regional Secondary Schools ..	15 Q
Iron ore Deposits at Udi ..	16 Q
Nigeria's Coal ..	17 Q
Police Recruitment Drive ..	998 Q
Queen's Counsel (Abolition) Bill ..	433-434
Removal of vehicles etc. (Lagos) Bill ..	496
Taking over of Roads ..	30 Q

**Chukwu, Mr D. N. :**

Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 30 ..	1583-1591
Compulsory Military Training ..	37 Q
Geological Map of Nigeria ..	1908-1912
Ibos in the North ..	2041-2043
Nigeria Police in the Congo ..	2048 Q
Paper Factory ..	1691 Q
Personal Explanation ..	1633-1634
Police Barracks ..	2049 Q
Police women ..	2049 Q
Provision of Mobile Post Offices ..	39 Q
Recruitment of Women ..	38 Q
Regional Post Office ..	39 Q
Telecommunication services in Eastern Nigeria .. 39 Q	
Training of Military Personnel ..	38 Q

**Chukwu, Mr H. O. :**

Airways Profits ..	584 Q
Commercial Pilots ..	99 Q
Fokker Friendship Costs ..	584 Q
Grammar School Cadet Units ..	398 Q
Mid-West Interim Administration ..	199 Q
Sub-Post Office for Umunato ..	329 Q
Third Vessel for Onitsha-Asaba Ferry Service .. 99 Q	
Umuahia-Mamfe Road ..	96 Q

**Chukwu, Mr J. :**

Electricity for Awgu ..	191 Q
Oduma and Ndeeboh Crossings ..	98 Q
Train Accidents ..	98 Q

**Committees :**

Committee of Selection ..	5
Report from the Business Committee ..	467, 505, 1423
Reports from Special Select and Standing Committees ..	95

**Communications Minister of :**

(Chief the hon. Olu Akinfosile)	
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 25 ..	1553-1560, 1572, 1573-1574
Postal facilities in Rural Areas ..	1245-1248

**D**

**Dada, Mr G. K. :**

Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	949-951
-------------------------------------	---------

**Damla, Mr J. M. :**

Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	882-887
Com. Head 25 ..	1539-1540
Com. Head 46 ..	1923-1925
Com. Head 53 ..	1933-1935
Defence Industries Bill ..	449-450

**Damale Kaita, Alhaji :**

Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1068-1071
Com. Head 24 ..	1519-1522

**Dame-Oboh, Chief P. :**

Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1296-1299
Com. Head 627 ..	2117-2118

	Column		Column
<b>Daura, Alhaji L. :</b>			
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1271-1279	Federal Government Scholarships	1581-1583
Com. Head 24 ..	1502-1503	Renaming of Monuments bearing Colonial Names ..	1861-1863
Capital Expenditure Estimates :		<b>Effiong-Spatts, Mr A. E. :</b>	
Head 634 - Information ..	568-569	Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1055-1062
Custom Duty ..	18 Q	Defence Industries Bill ..	451-452
Defence Industries Bill ..	447-448	<b>Ejukwa, Mr P. J. :</b>	
Extension of Electricity Lines ..	1159 Q	African Development Bank ..	1847 Q
Funtua - Katsina ..	845 Q	Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1032-1038
Industry ..	26 Q	Com. Head 58 ..	1997-1999
Road Bridge over the Niger ..	33 Q	Electricity supply to Ikom and Ogoja ..	37 Q
Widening of all Federal Roads ..	1159 Q	Maintenance Cost ..	32 Q
<b>Defence Industries Bill (see Bills)</b>		Police Dogs ..	2048 Q
<b>De - Omomadia, Mr J. K. :</b>		Tarring of Trunk 'A' Road ..	32 Q
Appropriation Bill :		Telephone Services to E.N.D.C. ..	40 Q
Com. Head 623 ..	2094	<b>Ekanem, Mr P. E. :</b>	
Com. Head 625 ..	2111	Business of the House ..	205-206
Establishment of Oleh Police Station ..	11 Q	Distribution of Papers to Members	400-401
Installation of Telephone ..	1311 Q	Made-in-Nigeria Goods ..	261-265
Oleh Sub-Post Office ..	846 Q	Nigeria Legion Bill ..	510-513
Osoro Postal Agency ..	845 Q	<b>Ekenekot, Mr U. O.</b>	
<b>Dimka, Mr D. D. :</b>		Appropriation Bill :	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1263-1266	Com. Head 24 ..	1535-1537
Com. Head 36 ..	1735-1737	<b>Eko, Mr U. U. :</b>	
Defence Industries Bill ..	443-444	Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	674-678
Maiduguri Airport ..	1906-1907	Establishment of a Mobile Postal Service	40 Q
<b>Dosunmu, Mr L. J. :</b>		Lagos Housing Scheme ..	43 Q
Appropriation Bill :		Rural Telephone Service ..	40 Q
Com. Head 631 ..	2134-2136	School Fees ..	2053 Q
Director of Audit's Report (1962-63)	2058-2059	Surulere Housing Scheme ..	2052 Q
Lagos Executive Development Board (Powers) Bill ..	469-471	Ugep Postal Agency ..	1952 Q
Registered Land Bill ..	558-559	<b>Eleke, Mr P. O. :</b>	
Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill	472-473	Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	724-726
Resolutions adopted by the 52nd Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union	214-217	Com. Head 55 ..	1972-1973
<b>Douglas-Home, Rt. Hon. Sir Alec (Prime Minister of the United Kingdom) :</b>		Com. Head 58 ..	2003-2004
Address ..	482-491	<b>Elenwa, Mr N. E. :</b>	
Visit of : ..	481	Abua Postal Agency ..	20 Q
		Ahoada Postal Agencies ..	1947 Q
		Anti-Smuggling Aircraft ..	8 Q
		Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1071-1076
		Com. Head 25 ..	1547-1548
		Com. Head 40 ..	1772
		Com. Head 53 ..	1932-1933
		Com. Head 621 ..	2073-2074
		Com. Head 627 ..	2118-2119
		Com. Head 639 ..	2183
		Development Programme ..	7 Q
		Diplomatic Mission in Africa ..	1003 Q
		Economic Tours ..	7 Q
		Geological Map of Nigeria ..	1912
		Half Pennies in Circulation ..	1164 Q
		Information Officer in America ..	47 Q
		Navy Bill ..	2197
		Nigeria's Ambassadors ..	1003 Q
		Nurses' Promotions ..	10 Q
		Omoku Post Office ..	20 Q
		Pension and Gratuity ..	19 Q
		Police at Campaigns ..	996 Q
		Police Contingent in Congo ..	1428 Q
		Police Post for Omoku ..	1428 Q
		Power for Ahoada ..	1849 Q
		Prisons ..	1684 Q
		Publicity at the U.N.O. ..	1847 Q
		Roads ..	1694 Q
		Road Tolls ..	1694 Q
		Siting of Military Institutions ..	1160 Q
		Training of Dogs ..	1164 Q
<b>Eboigbodi, Mr J. B. :</b>			
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1299-1303		
Com. Head 638 ..	2182		
Debate on the Address ..	26, 62-66		
<b>Economic Development, Minister of (Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim) :</b>			
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R	704-705		
	946-947, 1008, 1009-1017		
Com. Head 30 ..	1622-1629		
Com. Head 31 ..	1651-1654		
Com. Head 32 ..	1664-1667		
Debate on the Address ..	32		
<b>Ede, Mr J. O. :</b>			
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1089-1097		
Com. Head 58 ..	1993		
Distribution of Papers to Members ..	403		
<b>Education, Minister of (Onyiba the hon. Aja Nwachuku) :</b>			
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R	984, 985-986, 1354-1361		
Com. Head 32 ..	1668		
Com. Head 36 ..	1713-1714, 1738-1751		
Education to be a Federal Subject	786-790		

	Column
<b>Ememe, Mr O. C. :</b>	
Aba South Postal Agency .. .. .	1950 Q
Aba South Telephone Need .. .. .	1951 Q
Ahoada Warders Quarters .. .. .	4 Q
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 36 .. .. .	1728-1735
Com. Head 60 .. .. .	2017-2023
Com. Head 621 .. .. .	2075-2076
Com. Head 639 .. .. .	2184-2185
Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 5) Order, 1964 .. .. .	2223
Defence Industries Bill .. .. .	464-465
Excise (Control of Distillation) Bill .. .. .	2199-2200, 2203
Further Electricity Supply, Aba Division .. .. .	1852 Q
Imo River Post Office .. .. .	1950 Q
Insurance (Miscellaneous Proceedings) Bill .. .. .	529-533, 544-545
Labour and Welfare .. .. .	15 Q
Made-in-Nigeria Goods .. .. .	252-261
National Provident Fund Bill .. .. .	1411, 1416
Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill .. .. .	473-474
Scholarship Awards .. .. .	45 Q
Scholarship Policy .. .. .	45 Q
Use of Aba South Natural Gas .. .. .	1851 Q
<b>Emenogha, Mr V. A. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. .. .	936-942
Com. Head 32 .. .. .	1661-1664
Defence Industries Bill .. .. .	448-449
Retiring Age of Civil Servants .. .. .	1211-1216
<b>Eminue, Mr O. J. :</b>	
Afam-Calabar Power Line .. .. .	1851 Q
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 54 .. .. .	1961
Com. Head 58 .. .. .	2006-2007
Construction of Trunk 'A' Road .. .. .	30 Q
Debate on the Address .. .. .	296-299
Power for Oron .. .. .	1851 Q
Reconstruction of Uya-Oron Bridge .. .. .	30 Q
Re-surfacing and widening of Road .. .. .	30 Q
<b>Enefola, Mr D. O. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. .. .	895-904
Debate on the Address .. .. .	91-94, 112-115
Insurance (Miscellaneous Proceedings) Bill .. .. .	533-535
Retiring Age of Civil Servants .. .. .	1231-1234
<b>Eneh, Mr G. O. D. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. .. .	891-894
Com. Head 31 .. .. .	1636-1638
Com. Head 54 .. .. .	1965-1966
Com. Head 58 .. .. .	1995-1997
Com. Head 623 .. .. .	2092-2093
Nigerian Legion Bill .. .. .	503-504, 507-508
Presidential Proceedings Bill .. .. .	414
<b>Enwo, Mr N. :</b>	
Debate on the Address .. .. .	294-296
<b>Establishment and Service Matters, Minister of (Hon. J. C. Obande) :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. .. .	1319-1325
Com. Head 40 .. .. .	1772-1773
Business of the House .. .. .	1698
Morgan Salaries and Wages Commission .. .. .	2160-2162
Retiring age of Civil Servants .. .. .	1221-1222
<b>Etukudo, Mr T. I. :</b>	
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 22 .. .. .	1464-1471
Com. Head 627 .. .. .	2116-2117
Com. Head 636 .. .. .	2157

	Column
<b>Excise (Control of Distillation) Bill (see Bills)</b>	
<b>External Affairs, Minister of (Dr the hon. Jaja Wachuku)</b>	
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 44 .. .. .	1822-1834
Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 5) Order 1964 .. .. .	2224-2225
Mr Daniel O'farm .. .. .	2205-2206
Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs .. .. .	280-284
Provisional Government for Angola .. .. .	1682
Resolutions adopted by the 52nd Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union .. .. .	219
<b>Ezera, Professor Kalu :</b>	
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 21 .. .. .	1437-1438
Com. Head 23 .. .. .	1492-1493
Com. Head 32 .. .. .	1660-1661
Brewery Plants .. .. .	27 Q
Convenience of Members .. .. .	832-833
Debate on the Address .. .. .	146-153
Distribution of Papers to Members .. .. .	399, 402-403
Education to be a Federal Subject .. .. .	764-769
Presidential Proceedings Bill .. .. .	422-423, 427
Price of Beer and Soft Drinks .. .. .	27 Q
Queen's Counsel (Abolition) Bill .. .. .	436-438
Registration of New Companies .. .. .	26 Q
Resolutions adopted by the 52nd Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union .. .. .	207-210
<b>F</b>	
<b>Fajinmi, Mr S. O. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. .. .	963-967
Ileigbo Postal Agency .. .. .	1312 Q
Iwo Post Office .. .. .	1312 Q
Mid-Western Nigeria .. .. .	18 Q
Niger Dam .. .. .	1432 Q
Police Station for Iwo .. .. .	1429 Q
<b>Falaiye, Mr W. J. :</b>	
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 31 .. .. .	1650-1651
Debate on the Address .. .. .	126-132
<b>Finance, Minister of (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) :</b>	
Answer to Oral Questions .. .. .	2066
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. .. .	340-386, 1391-1404
Com. Head 24 .. .. .	1503-1515
Com. Head 39 .. .. .	1761-1763
Com. Head 41 .. .. .	1787-1795
Com. Head 62 .. .. .	2037-2040
Com. Head 621 .. .. .	2067-2068
Com. Head 622 .. .. .	2081, 2086-2087
Com. Head 623 .. .. .	2087
Com. Head 624 .. .. .	2099
Com. Head 625 .. .. .	2107
Com. Head 626 .. .. .	2112, 2113-2114
Com. Head 627 .. .. .	2117
Com. Head 629 .. .. .	2120
Com. Head 630 .. .. .	2126
Com. Head 631 .. .. .	2134
Com. Head 633 .. .. .	2143
Com. Head 634 .. .. .	2146
Com. Head 636 .. .. .	2149
Com. Head 637 .. .. .	2166, 2171-2173
Com. Head 638 .. .. .	2178

	<i>Column</i>
Com. Head 639 .. .. .	2183
Com. Head 640 .. .. .	2186, 2190-2194
Bills of Exchange Bill .. .. .	551-552
Business of the House 204, 206, 585, 848, 1167, 1435-1436, 1633, 1698, 1852-1853	
Business Statement .. .. .	2-3, 505, 1633
Committee of Selection .. .. .	5
Congratulatory Message .. .. .	1697-1698
Convenience of Members .. .. .	834-835
Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) :	
(No. 2) Order, 1964 .. .. .	572
(No. 3) Order, 1964 .. .. .	572
(No. 4) Order, 1964 .. .. .	2221
(No. 5) Order, 1964 .. .. .	2221-2222
Debate on the Address .. .. .	53-62
Denial of Allegation .. .. .	2065-2066
Director of Audit's Report (1962-63) .. .. .	2054-2058, 2063-2064
Distribution of Papers to Members .. .. .	399, 401-402
Excise (Control of Distillation) Bill .. .. .	2198
Excise Duties (Amendment) Order .. .. .	587, 590-595, 598-601, 604-608, 610-612
Insurance (Miscellaneous Proceedings) Bill .. .. .	520-524, 535-536, 539-542, 544, 545, 550-551
Parliamentary Questions .. .. .	1939
Personal Explanation .. .. .	2220
Procedure on Supplementary Appropriation Bill .. .. .	507
Report from the Business Committee .. .. .	505
Sitting of the House .. .. .	506
Supplementary Appropriation (1963-64) (No. 2) Bill .. .. .	467-468
<b>G</b>	
<b>Garba, M. Turakin Paiko :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. .. .	673-674
<b>Garba Jalo Abubakar, M. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. .. .	1287-1288
<b>Gaza, Mr C. T.</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. .. .	1123-1124
Establishment of Industries in Benue Province .. .. .	23 Q
Industry for Benue Province .. .. .	27 Q
Mineral Survey of Wukari .. .. .	738 Q
Telephones .. .. .	41 Q
<b>Gbolagunte, Mr D. M. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. .. .	876-882
Com. Head 22 .. .. .	1460-1465
Com. Head 24 .. .. .	1495-1497
Com. Head 30 .. .. .	1592-1595
Com. Head 58 .. .. .	1994-1995
Com. Head 62 .. .. .	2025-2027
Com. Head 621 .. .. .	2074-2075
Com. Head 626 .. .. .	2113
Com. Head 629 .. .. .	2120-2123
Com. Head 633 .. .. .	2143-2145
Bills of Exchange Bill .. .. .	552
Capital Expenditure Estimates : Head 634—Information .. .. .	566-567
Civil Servants .. .. .	1309 Q
Defence Industries Bill .. .. .	444-446, 461
Diplomatic Relations with West Indies and Latin American countries .. .. .	1434 Q
Electricity supply .. .. .	1158 Q
Insurance (Miscellaneous Proceedings) Bill .. .. .	547-548
Local Production of Firearms .. .. .	1162 Q

	<i>Column</i>
Made in Nigeria Goods .. .. .	248-252
National Provident Fund Bill .. .. .	1410-1411
New African Government .. .. .	1003 Q
Nigerian Legion Bill .. .. .	508-509
Parliamentary Delegations .. .. .	1431 Q
Petroleum Price .. .. .	1158 Q
Postal Facilities in Rural Areas .. .. .	1248-1250
Presidential Proceedings Bill .. .. .	410-412
Purchase of Shot Guns .. .. .	11 Q
Southern Rhodesia and Angola .. .. .	1005 Q
Tax on Drinks .. .. .	35 Q
Widening of all Federal Roads .. .. .	1209-1210
<b>Giadom, Mr K. :</b>	
Made in Nigeria Goods .. .. .	243-246

## H

<b>Health, Minister of (Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. .. .	1076-1089
Com. Head 45 .. .. .	1916-1920
Com. Head 630 .. .. .	2131-2134

## I

<b>Ibrahim Gusau, M. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. .. .	634-640
Com. Head 21 .. .. .	1442-1444
Com. Head 24 .. .. .	1527-1529
Com. Head 30 .. .. .	1614-1617
Com. Head 32 .. .. .	1659
Com. Head 33 .. .. .	1670-1671
Debate on the Address .. .. .	66-69
Defence Industries Bill .. .. .	463-464
Education to be a Federal Subject .. .. .	776-780
National Provident Fund Bill .. .. .	1415-1416
Nigerian Legion Bill .. .. .	518-519
Presidential Proceedings Bill .. .. .	409-410
Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill .. .. .	476-477
Resolutions adopted by the 52nd Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union .. .. .	213-214
Service conditions of Police Officers .. .. .	1179-1181
<b>Ibrahim Muku, M. :</b>	
Appropriation Bill : Com. Head 25 .. .. .	1566-1567
Com. Head 638 .. .. .	2180-2181
Debate on the Address .. .. .	323-324
N. B. C. North Transmitter .. .. .	2162

### **Ibrahim Na Maitama, M.**

Angola .. .. .	1002 Q
Kazaure - Kano - Daura Road .. .. .	580 Q
Pilgrims .. .. .	1002 Q

### **Ibrahim, Hon. Tako Galadima (Minister of State)**

Navy Bill .. .. .	2194-2197
-------------------	-----------

### **Idiong, Mr S. U. :**

Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. .. .	972-974
--	---------

### **Ifezue, Mr E. O. :**

Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. .. .	1041-1046
Presidential Proceedings Bill .. .. .	430

### **Igwe, Mr J. O. :**

Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. .. .	1097-1101
Abakaliki - Enugu Road .. .. .	581 Q

	Column
<b>Ihe, Mr Y. U. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	694-698
Co-ordination between Governments of the Republic .. .. .	334 Q
Imported Bottles .. .. .	199 Q
Infectious Diseases .. .. .	338 Q
L.E.D.B. Tenants .. .. .	2 Q
<b>Ikeh, Mr B. O. :</b>	
Abakaliki Post Office .. .. .	842 Q
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 58 .. .. .	2004-2006
Com. Head 622 .. .. .	2081-2082
Com. Head 640 .. .. .	2189-2190
Installation of Telephone .. .. .	1311 Q
Lead-Zinc Deposits at Abakaliki .. .. .	1158 Q
<b>Ilesha Yesufu, M :</b>	
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 31 .. .. .	1638-1639
Debate on the Address .. .. .	84-85
<b>Information, Minister of : (Chief the hon. T. O. S. Benson) :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1025-1032
The decision of the Government concerning Overseas Publicity .. .. .	
The defence of the President .. .. .	2213-
The External Broadcasting Station at Ikorodu .. .. .	2218
<b>Insurance (Miscellaneous Proceedings) Bill : (see Bills)</b>	
<b>Internal Affairs, Minister of (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari) :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-56) Bill, 2R ..	887-890
Nigeria Legion Bill .. .. .	500-502, 513-514, 516-518
<b>Isa Haruna, Alhaji :</b>	
Aircraft Manufacture .. .. .	583 Q
Assistance to Private Miners .. .. .	1687 Q
Diplomatic Missions .. .. .	1000 Q
Federal Government Employees .. .. .	337 Q
Foreign Loans .. .. .	730 Q
Foreign Mission in Nigeria .. .. .	1000 Q
France .. .. .	1000 Q
Improvement of Trunk 'A' Roads .. .. .	96 Q
Maintenance Cost of Trunk 'A' Roads .. .. .	96 Q
Mineral Survey of Nigeria .. .. .	194 Q
New Federal Hospitals .. .. .	338 Q
New Industries .. .. .	573 Q
New Railways .. .. .	98 Q
Nigeria's Minerals .. .. .	194 Q
Peace During Electioneering Campaigns .. .. .	1424 Q
Progress in Education .. .. .	393 Q
Supply of Teaching Staff .. .. .	395 Q
Tin and Columbite .. .. .	574 Q
Unemployment .. .. .	335 Q
<b>Isa Iko, M. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill 2R .. .. .	1303

## J

<b>Justice, Minister of (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias) :</b>	
Director of Audit's Report (1962-63) ..	2060
<b>Insurance (Miscellaneous Proceedings) Bill :</b>	
Parliamentary Privileges .. .. .	817-820
Presidential Proceedings Bill .. .. .	403-406, 414-416, 425, 428-429
Queen's Counsel Abolition Bill .. .. .	431, 440-441
Registered Land Bill .. .. .	554-558, 560-561
Substitute Honour for Queen's Counsel .. .. .	1631-1632

## K

<b>Kolade, Mr S. O. :</b>	
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 58 .. .. .	1988-1992
Com. Head 621 .. .. .	2072-2073
Com. Head 623 .. .. .	2087-2088
Auto Exchange for Oyo .. .. .	9 Q
Debate on the Address .. .. .	69-75
Defence Industries Bill .. .. .	450-451, 459-460
Education to be a Federal Subject .. .. .	782-786
Nigerian Legion Bill .. .. .	517
Power for Southern Oyo .. .. .	738 Q
Presidential Proceedings Bill .. .. .	417
Sports Administration .. .. .	735 Q
Trunk Road Repairs .. .. .	3 Q

## L

<b>Labour, Minister of (Chief the hon. J. M. Johnson):</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	904-915
International Labour Conference 47th Session .. .. .	1695-1697
National Provident Fund Bill .. .. .	1404-1406, 1413
<b>Lagos Affairs, Minister of (Alhaji the hon. Musa Yar'Adua) :</b>	
Housing Scheme for Low Income Workers .. .. .	227-228
Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill ..	471-472
<b>Lagos Executive Development Board (Powers) Bill : (see Bills)</b>	
<b>Lajide, Mr V. L.</b>	
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 58 .. .. .	2007-2008
Electric Power Failures .. .. .	35 Q
Ex-Enemy Properties .. .. .	1164 Q
Iddo-Oshun Landing Ground .. .. .	33 Q
Insurance of Government Property .. .. .	5 Q
Introduction of New Call Sign .. .. .	202 Q
Jagua Nana .. .. .	202 Q
Man O'War Bay .. .. .	13 Q
Niger Dam .. .. .	389 Q
Ogbomosho Electricity Supply .. .. .	1159 Q
Police Riot Squad .. .. .	21 Q
Pools Fraud .. .. .	102 Q
Pool Companies and Agents .. .. .	102 Q
Projects for External Finance .. .. .	5 Q
Public Libraries .. .. .	203 Q
Results of Geological Surveys .. .. .	1159 Q
Six-Year Development Plan .. .. .	847 Q
Traffic Congestion .. .. .	33 Q
Travel Permit to Russia .. .. .	392 Q
University Entrance .. .. .	13 Q
Vocational Guidance .. .. .	13 Q

## Lar, Mr S. D. :

Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 30 .. .. .	1601-1605
Com. Head 37 .. .. .	1751-1752
Com. Head 44 .. .. .	1809, 1810-1814
Com. Head 629 .. .. .	2123-2126
Debate on the Address .. .. .	290-294
Education to be a Federal Subject .. .. .	780-782
Excise Duties (Amendment) Order .. .. .	596
Ginger Ale Factory in Southern Zaria .. .. .	1253-1254
Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs .. .. .	276-277
Parliamentary Questions .. .. .	1940

## M

**Maina Waziri, M :**

Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 24 .. .. .	1497-1498
Com. Head 25 .. .. .	1545-1547
Com. Head 41 .. .. .	1779-1780
Com. Head 53 .. .. .	1931

**Mbah, Mr A. U. D. :**

Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 24 .. .. .	1523-1527
Com. Head 54 .. .. .	1956-1958
Com. Head 62 .. .. .	2027-2033
Control of House Rent .. .. .	284-289
Criminal Offence .. .. .	12 Q
Distributable Pool .. .. .	1166 Q
Educational Grants .. .. .	14 Q
Geological Survey of Owerri .. .. .	191 Q
Grants to Northern Region Government	1425Q
Insurance (Miscellaneous Proceedings)	
Bill .. .. .	548-550
Mbaitoli and Ikeduru .. .. .	334 Q
Morgan Salaries and Wages Commission	2159
National Provident Fund Bill 1406-1409, 1412-1413	
O.A.U. Progress .. .. .	389 Q
Owerri Economic Survey .. .. .	334 Q
Personal Explanation .. .. .	2220
Police .. .. .	9 Q, 10 Q
Retiring Age .. .. .	337 Q
Six-Year Development Plan .. .. .	820-827
Threat to Nigerian Unity .. .. .	1417-1419
University Grants .. .. .	1427 Q

**Mbu, Hon. M. T. (Minister of State for the Navy) :**

Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	651-657
Defence Industries Bill 441-442, 452-453, 459, 460	
Navy Bill .. .. .	2198

**Mines and Power, Minister of (Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule) :**

Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1335-1350
Com. Head 623 .. .. .	2094-2099
Geological Map of Nigeria .. .. .	1912-1915

**Ministerial Statements :**

Congratulatory Message .. .. .	1697-1698
Director of Audit's Report (1962-63)	2054-2058
Federal Government Scholarships	1581-1583
International Labour Conference 47th Session .. .. .	1695-1697
Lagos Teaching Hospital .. .. .	739-740
Nigerianisation of the Economy .. .. .	2165
The decision of the Government concerning Overseas Publicity .. .. .	2213
The Defence of the President .. .. .	
The External Broadcasting Station at Ikorodu .. .. .	
The 1963 Census .. .. .	111

**Mohammed Muhtari, Alhaji Sarkin Bai :**

Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 31 .. .. .	1634-1636
Business Statement .. .. .	3
Convenience of Members .. .. .	831
Debate on the Address .. .. .	169-174

**Mordi, Mr E. A. :**

Abortion : 1961-63 .. .. .	339 Q
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1103-1112
Com. Head 31 .. .. .	1639-1642

Com. Head 625 .. .. .	2107-2111
Com. Head 634 .. .. .	2146-2149
Call Box for Nsukka and Iliah .. .. .	840 Q
Debate on the Address .. .. .	85-90
Defence Industries Bill .. .. .	456, 462-463
Divorce .. .. .	582 Q
Denial of Allegation .. .. .	1953-1955
Inland Waterways Workers .. .. .	100 Q
Installation of Automatic Telephone Exchange .. .. .	1311 Q
Insurance (Miscellaneous Proceedings)	
Bill .. .. .	537-538, 541, 543-544
Lepers .. .. .	339 Q
Mid-West Ports Revenue .. .. .	729 Q
Niger Pools .. .. .	101 Q
Ogwashu-Uku Police Barracks .. .. .	389 Q
Onitsha-Asaba Ferry Earnings .. .. .	100 Q
Postal Agencies .. .. .	1310 Q
Postal Facilities in the Rural Areas ..	1239-1245
Prospecting in Asaba .. .. .	196 Q
Six-Year Development Plan .. .. .	827-828
Telegrams .. .. .	1311 Q
Tuberculosis .. .. .	339 Q
Ubulu-Uku Post Office .. .. .	841 Q
Ubulu-Uku Telephone Needs .. .. .	1947 Q

**Motions (Private Members) :**

African Common Market .. .. .	1868
Control of House Rent .. .. .	284
Debate on the Address .. .. .	146
Education to be a Federal Subject .. .. .	764
Flood Commission .. .. .	1892
Geological Map of Nigeria .. .. .	1908
Ginger Ale Factory in Southern Zaria ..	1252
Housing Scheme for Low Income Workers	222
International Trade .. .. .	740
Made-in-Nigeria Goods .. .. .	240
Maiduguri Airport .. .. .	1904
National Transport Board .. .. .	795
Nigeria's Bridges and Floods .. .. .	228
Overhead Bridge along the Western Avenue	1885
Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs .. .. .	270
Parliamentary Privileges .. .. .	810
Postal Facilities in Rural Areas .. .. .	1235
Resolutions adopted by the 52nd Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union	207
Retiring Age of Civil Servants .. .. .	1211
Renaming of Monuments Bearing Colonial Names .. .. .	1854
Service Conditions of Police Officers ..	1168
Six-Year Development Plan .. .. .	820
Widening of all Federal Roads .. .. .	1196

**Muhammadu Gauyamma, Alhaji :**

Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	678-684
Com. Head 22 .. .. .	1454-1457
Com. Head 30 .. .. .	1610-1612
Com. Head 39 .. .. .	1756-1758
Com. Head 41 .. .. .	1773-1778
Debate on the Address .. .. .	39-40

**Muhammadu Ningi, Alhaji :**

Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	647-648
Com. Head 25 .. .. .	1552-1553
Com. Head 45 .. .. .	1839-1840
Com. Head 626 .. .. .	2112-2113
Bauchi Aerodrome .. .. .	585 Q
Bauchi Post Office .. .. .	333 Q
Cement Industry for Gombe .. .. .	575 Q
Defence Industries Bill .. .. .	447
Industries in the North .. .. .	574 Q
Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill	495

	Column
<b>Muhammadu Sagir, Umar M. :</b>	
Debate on the Address .. ..	309-313
Presidential Proceedings Bill ..	421-422
<b>Muojeke, Mr R. N. :</b>	
Ajalli Sub-Post Office .. ..	330 Q
Alcoholic Drinks .. ..	1841 Q
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 22 .. ..	1451-1453
Com. Head 30 .. ..	1612-1614
Com. Head 34 .. ..	1674-1675
Com. Head 54 .. ..	1962
Com. Head 637 .. ..	2166-2167
Carpet Crossing .. ..	388 Q
Central Awka Minerals .. ..	192 Q
Company Law Review .. ..	573 Q
Company Law .. ..	1 Q
Customs Duty .. ..	1164
Defence Industries Bill .. ..	454-455
Hire Purchase Legislation .. ..	1686 Q
Hooliganism at Soccer .. ..	735 Q
International Trade .. ..	740-747
Lagos Primary School Education ..	393 Q
Legalisation of locally manufactured	1162 Q
Marina House .. ..	6 Q
Mrs Adanma Okpara .. ..	996 Q
National Anthem .. ..	4 Q
Ndikelionwu Mineral Resources ..	192 Q
Niger Bridge .. ..	578 Q
Nigeria's Bridges and Floods ..	228-232
Onitsha Harbour .. ..	583 Q
Parliamentary Privileges .. ..	815-817
Petroleum Profits .. ..	737 Q
Postal Facilities in the Rural Areas	1235-1239
Queen's Counsel (Abolition) Bill ..	438-439
Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill	496
Resettlement of Deportees .. ..	1686 Q
Service Conditions of Police Officers	1181-1184
The National Anthem .. ..	1683 Q
Tribal Political Parties .. ..	388 Q
Unfavourable Trade Terms .. ..	111 Q
Walcon Monopoly .. ..	110 Q
U.N.O. Congo Force .. ..	1001 Q

<b>Mutairu Abubakar, M. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	974-975

## N

<b>National Provident Fund Bill (see Bills)</b>	
<b>Navy Bill (see Bills)</b>	
<b>Nigerian Legion Bill (see Bills)</b>	
<b>Nnaji, Mr S. :</b>	
Agbani Road Displaced Persons ..	4 Q
Amurri Hill .. ..	196 Q
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	871-874
Circulation of Money .. ..	1164 Q
Enugu Airport .. ..	34 Q
Industry .. ..	1691 Q
Inter-Regional Technical Schools	14 Q, 16 Q
New Industries .. ..	2 Q
Newly Found Minerals .. ..	196 Q
Police Salaries .. ..	337 Q
Power for Agbani .. ..	737 Q
Proposal for taking over Regional Roads	95 Q
Ugwuorie Hill .. ..	196 Q
Ugwuorie Minerals .. ..	738 Q

	Column
<b>Nurses and Midwives Bill (see Bills)</b>	
<b>Nwalieji, Mr V. A. :</b>	
Aerodromes .. ..	34 Q
Aerodrome for Nsukka .. ..	34 Q
Assistance to Under-Graduates ..	14 Q
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1117-1121
Debate on the Address .. ..	319-323
Driving Licences .. ..	1431 Q
Nsukka Police Station .. ..	1430 Q
Police Posts for Nsukka .. ..	41 Q
Police Quarters .. ..	41 Q
Prisons .. ..	1658 Q
Salaries of the Disciplined Forces	1430 Q
Scholarships .. ..	14 Q
<b>Nwangbo, Mr N. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	648-651
Reconstruction of Enugu-Abakaliki Road	29 Q
<b>Nzeribe, Dr B. U. :</b>	
Advanced Teachers' Training College, Lagos	46 Q
Awo Omomma Postal Agency .. ..	1949 Q
Appropriation Bill :	
Com Head 33 .. ..	1671-1673
Com. Head 36 .. ..	1734, 1742
Com. Head 640 .. ..	2187-2189
Economic Aid from Soviet Bloc	
Countries .. ..	1846 Q
Financial Assistance .. ..	1942 Q
First Development Loan .. ..	1845 Q
Imported Liquor .. ..	1691 Q
Imported Textbooks .. ..	1692 Q
Insurance Companies .. ..	1844 Q
International Trade .. ..	747-754
Inter-Regional Secondary School ..	46 Q
Mental Health Problems .. ..	1946 Q
School Textbooks .. ..	46 Q
Secondhand Clothing .. ..	1691 Q
Widening of all Federal Roads ..	1198-1206

## O

<b>Oaths .. ..</b>	1, 191
<b>Obi, Mr M. C. K. :</b>	
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 36 .. ..	1709-1715
Com. Head 39 .. ..	1758
Com. Head 41 .. ..	1782
Com. Head 62 .. ..	2033-2037
Com. Head 623 .. ..	2090
Debate on the Address .. ..	25-28
Insurance (Miscellaneous Proceedings) Bill	548
Presidential Proceedings Bill .. ..	413
Renaming of Monuments bearing Colonial	
Names .. ..	1866-1867
Service Conditions of Police Officers	1189-1192
<b>Odebunmi, Mr J. D. :</b>	
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 24 .. ..	1500-1502
Insurance (Miscellaneous Proceedings)	
Bill .. ..	524-525
International Trade .. ..	757-760
Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill	474
<b>Odey, Mr J. U. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	684-686
Com. Head 25 .. ..	1537-1539
Obeludu Ranch Plateau .. ..	1691 Q
Prisons .. ..	1685 Q
<b>Odigbo, Mr C. A. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	975-981

	<i>Column</i>
<b>Odo, Mr E. A. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	687-689
Com. Head 31 .. .. .	1638
Nigerian Legion Bill .. .. .	516
<b>Odulana, Mr F. A. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	925-933
Com. Head 24 .. .. .	1510, 1513, 1531-1533
Com. Head 25 .. .. .	1570-1573
Com. Head 30 .. .. .	1605-1610
Com. Head 36 .. .. .	1713
Com. Head 39 .. .. .	1763-1765
Com. Head 41 .. .. .	1782-1787, 1788
Com. Head 44 .. .. .	1810, 1814-1817
Com. Head 54 .. .. .	1962-1965
Com. Head 622 .. .. .	2082-2084
Com. Head 624 .. .. .	2099-2104
Com. Head 631 .. .. .	2138-2139
Com. Head 637 .. .. .	2175-2177
Business of the House .. .. .	205
Defence Industries Bill .. .. .	457
National Provident Fund Bill .. .. .	1414
Queen's Counsel (Abolition) Bill .. .. .	434-435
Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill, Tender for Police Uniforms .. .. .	477 1937-1938
<b>Odurinde, Mr A. A. :</b>	
Allowances to Ministers on Tour .. .. .	1166 Q
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	968-972
Conversion of Postal Agencies .. .. .	20 Q
Executive Officers, Central Bank .. .. .	17 Q
Federal Film Unit .. .. .	1848 Q
Free Primary Schools in Lagos .. .. .	22 Q
Inter-Regional Proposed Secondary Schools .. .. .	22 Q
Life Imprisonment .. .. .	23 Q
Meeting of Political Leaders .. .. .	21 Q
Oshogbo Level Crossing .. .. .	47 Q
Oshun Mineral Deposits .. .. .	1850 Q
Overseas Missions .. .. .	47 Q
Re-opening of Iddo-Osun Airstrip .. .. .	33 Q
Retirement of Officers .. .. .	19 Q
Yaba Mental Hospital .. .. .	838 Q
<b>Ogbalu, Mr F. C. :</b>	
African Common Market .. .. .	578 Q
Angola .. .. .	1001 Q
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1146-1152
Com. Head 22 .. .. .	1256-1263
Com. Head 22 .. .. .	1465-1468
Com. Head 36 .. .. .	1698-1709, 1742
Com. Head 44 .. .. .	1817-1822
Com. Head 50 .. .. .	1929-1931
Assistance to African Authors .. .. .	44 Q
Assistance to the Mid-West .. .. .	996 Q
Awka Prison .. .. .	1684 Q
Boys Company of the Nigerian Army .. .. .	1160 Q
Cadet Training Scheme .. .. .	1160 Q
Capital grants to Regional Governments .. .. .	21 Q
Citizenship Status .. .. .	1684 Q
Compulsory National Service .. .. .	37 Q
Death resulting from Road Accidents .. .. .	1427 Q
Debate on the Address .. .. .	32-38
Defence Industries Bill .. .. .	458-459
Excise (Control of Distillation) Bill .. .. .	2201
Excise Duties (Amendment) Order .. .. .	590
Insurance (Miscellaneous Proceedings) Bill .. .. .	545-547
National Transport Board .. .. .	802-807
Ndikelionwu Iron Deposits .. .. .	1849 Q

	<i>Column</i>
Negotiation with the European Economic Community .. .. .	1427 Q
Nigerian Industrial Development Bank .. .. .	23 Q
Nigerian Printing Industry .. .. .	1689 Q
Nimo Post Office .. .. .	842
Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs .. .. .	273-276
Proposed Independence for Fernando Po .. .. .	48 Q
Renaming of Monuments bearing Colonial Names .. .. .	1867-1868
Retiring Age of Civil Servants .. .. .	1226-1231, 19 Q
Second Hand Clothing .. .. .	734 Q
Technical Institute in Awka .. .. .	45 Q
Tiger-Fullmer Fight .. .. .	1154 Q
<b>Ogedengbe, Mr S. A. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	698-709
Debate on the Address .. .. .	40-46, 48-50
Queen's Counsel (Abolition) Bill .. .. .	431
Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill .. .. .	492-495
<b>Ogunbiyi, Mr J. O. :</b>	
Appropriation Bill : Com. Head 23 .. .. .	1477-1481
<b>Ogundipe, Mr S. O. :</b>	
Market for Soya Beans .. .. .	1690 Q
Taking-Over of Trunk 'B' Roads .. .. .	28 Q
Weaving Factory .. .. .	1690 Q
<b>Ogunkanmi, Mr E. J. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	722-723
Business of the House .. .. .	587
Employment of School Leavers .. .. .	1153 Q
Expatriates in the Army .. .. .	198 Q
Gate Fees at Ibadan University Zoo .. .. .	1435 Q
Gbogan and Odeomu .. .. .	9 Q
Gbogan Power Supply .. .. .	728 Q
Lagos Traditional Chiefs .. .. .	6 Q
Loans to Mid-Western Nigeria .. .. .	1163 Q
Navy Nigerianisation .. .. .	198 Q
Nigeria Airways .. .. .	3 Q
Oshun Mineral Resources .. .. .	727 Q
Power for Ikire and Apomu .. .. .	727 Q
Retiring Benefits for Teachers .. .. .	44 Q
Service Conditions of Teachers .. .. .	44 Q
Statistics of School Children in the Federal Capital .. .. .	1435 Q
Tarring of Roads .. .. .	1693 Q, 1694 Q
Tarred Roads .. .. .	580 Q
Undergraduates .. .. .	1434 Q
Widening of Trunk 'A' Roads .. .. .	1693 Q
<b>Ogunleye, Chief D. A. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1047-1055
Com. Head 53 .. .. .	1932
Com. Head 41 .. .. .	1779
Com. Head 636 .. .. .	2155-2157
Bills of Exchange Bill .. .. .	553
Excise (Control of Distillation) Bill .. .. .	2203
Insurance (Miscellaneous Proceedings) Bill .. .. .	528
<b>Ogunsanya, Mr A. O. :</b>	
Appropriation Bill : Com. Head 58 .. .. .	1992-1993
Com. Head 631 .. .. .	2140-2142
Business of the House .. .. .	586-587
Debate on the Address .. .. .	6-12
Excise Duties (Amendment) Order .. .. .	608-610
Nigerian Legion Bill .. .. .	509-510
Queen's Counsel (Abolition) Bill .. .. .	439-440
Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill .. .. .	498-499



	Column
Renaming of Monuments bearing Colonial Names .. .. .	1863-1866
State of Affairs in Western Nigeria	2043-2044
The decision of the Government concerning Overseas Publicity ..	} 2219-2220
The defence of the President ..	
The External Broadcasting Station at Ikorodu .. .. .	
<b>Okay, Mr D. D. U.</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1288-1292
Com. Head 50 .. .. .	1928-1929
Com. Head 626 .. .. .	2113
Com. Head 639 .. .. .	2183-2184
Bills of Exchange Bill .. .. .	553
Defence Industries Bill .. .. .	442-443
<b>Okeke, Dr P. U. :</b>	
Absence of Ministers .. .. .	1953 Q
Advanced Teachers' Training College ..	2052 Q
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	715-722
Com. Head 21 .. .. .	1438-1439
Com. Head 23 .. .. .	1475-1477
Com. Head 36 .. .. .	1714, 1719-1728
Com. Head 44 .. .. .	1805-1809
Com. Head 637 .. .. .	2173-2175
Auto-Exchanges .. .. .	84 Q
Beer Breweries .. .. .	1689 Q
Capital Expenditure Estimates :	
Head 634—Information .. .. .	565
Defence Industries Bill .. .. .	454
Distillery .. .. .	1689 Q
Expatriates and Indigenous Officers ..	18 Q
Inter-Regional Secondary Schools ..	2052 Q
Investment Habits .. .. .	1941 Q
Lagos Health Scheme .. .. .	1945 Q
Life Expectancy .. .. .	1945 Q
Nigeria and the E.C.M. .. .. .	1429 Q
Parliamentary Questions .. .. .	1938-1939
Presidential Proceedings Bill .. .. .	406-409
Queen's Statue .. .. .	1429 Q
Regional and Federal Governments' activities abroad .. .. .	1432 Q
Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill ..	476
Repatriation of British Capital .. .. .	18 Q
Telephones .. .. .	844 Q
The National Flag .. .. .	1685 Q
Threat to National Unity .. .. .	2206-2207
<b>Okoronkwo, Mr F. I. . .</b>	
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 39 .. .. .	1758-1761
Com. Head 41 .. .. .	1778-1779
Com. Head 60 .. .. .	2024-2025
Com. Head 622 .. .. .	2084-2086
Com. Head 630 .. .. .	2128-2130
Capital Expenditure Estimates :	
Head 634—Information .. .. .	567-568
Defence Industries Bill .. .. .	455-456
Excise (Control of Distillation) Bill ..	2198-2199
Excise Duties (Amendment) Order ..	601-602
Insurance (Miscellaneous Proceedings) Bill	544
Nigerian Legion Bill .. .. .	519-520
<b>Okunowo, Chief E. O. :</b>	
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 30 .. .. .	1618-1622
Com. Head 623 .. .. .	2093
Defence Industries Bill .. .. .	447
Excise (Control of Distillation) Bill ..	2201
Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill ..	479-480
<b>Oladapo, Mr S. A. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1292-1295

	Column
<b>Oladiran, Oba S. A. :</b>	
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 23 .. .. .	1474-1475
Com. Head 32 .. .. .	1658
Debate on the Address .. .. .	299-301
Presidential Proceedings Bill .. .. .	430
Removal of Vehicles (Lagos) Bill .. ..	495
<b>Olaore, Mr J. O. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1019-1025
Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill ..	497-498
<b>Olarewaju, Hon. M. A. O. (Minister of State for Police Affairs) :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1017-1019
Com. Head 23 .. .. .	1485-1489
Tender for Police Uniform .. .. .	1938
Tiv Riots .. .. .	1681-1682
<b>Olatunde, Mr P. B.</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1124-1126
Contractors and Tenders .. .. .	32 Q
Cost of Tarring Ajasapo-Kabba Road ..	32 Q
Electricity Supply to Offa .. .. .	36 Q
Ilorin Division Postal Agencies .. ..	1951 Q
Ilorin South Postal Agencies .. .. .	1952 Q
Otun Oro Postal Agency .. .. .	1952 Q
<b>Oloyede, Mr T. O. :</b>	
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 25 .. .. .	1565-1566
Debate on the Address .. .. .	313-319
<b>Olukotun, Mr S. A. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1102-1103
Debate on the Address .. .. .	155-156
<b>Onugu, Mr N. N. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	671-673
<b>Onwuchekwa, Mr I. S. :</b>	
Aerial Anti-Smuggling Campaign .. ..	1842 Q
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 25 .. .. .	1574-1576
Com. Head 31 .. .. .	1644-1648
Com. Head 631 .. .. .	2136-2138
Com. Head 640 .. .. .	2186-2187
Capital Expenditure Estimates :	
Head 624—Land Transport System ..	562-563
Construction of Outlet Road .. .. .	31 Q
Debate on the Address .. .. .	122-126
Excise Duties (Amendment) Order ..	596-597
New Electricity Supplies .. .. .	197 Q
Nigerian Legion Bill .. .. .	515-516
Obia Postal Agency .. .. .	333 Q
Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs .. .. .	278-279
Port Harcourt—Ogoni Trunk Line ..	333 Q
Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill ..	478-479
Renaming of Monuments bearing Colonial Names .. .. .	1854-1859
Road Maps .. .. .	31 Q
Second Bridge Across Imo River .. ..	31 Q
Uniform Tax Law .. .. .	1843 Q
West African Currency .. .. .	1843 Q
<b>Orok, Chief R. A. :</b>	
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 623 .. .. .	2090-2091
Com. Head 636 .. .. .	2157
Okon Postal Agency .. .. .	842 Q
Power for IkotEkpene, Uyo and Abak ..	8 Q
Road Accidents .. .. .	11 Q

**Oronsaye Chief D. N. :**

African Common Market ..	1868-1878
Ambassador to France ..	.. 1434 Q
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1303-1309
	1314-1319
Com. Head 32 ..	1655-1658
Com. Head 37 ..	1752-1756
Com. Head 53 ..	1935-1937
Com. Head 59 ..	2012-2013
Com. Head 621 ..	2068-2072
Artificial Respirators ..	.. 839 Q
Benin Police Station ..	.. 1428 Q
Chemistry Services ..	.. 1944 Q
Council of Medical Reserach ..	.. 1944 Q
Debate on the Address ..	.. 20-25
Defence Agreement ..	.. 38 Q
Diplomatic Representation ..	.. 1006 Q
Director of Audit's Report (1962-63) ..	.. 2062
Doctors ..	.. 1310 Q
Drug Addicts ..	.. 839 Q
Ekpoma Police Post ..	.. 2047 Q
Ex-enemy Property ..	.. 1841 Q
Hospital Deaths ..	.. 1944 Q
Lagos-Ijebu-Benin Road ..	.. 1694 Q
Military Liaison with neighbouring Countries ..	.. 1161 Q
National Universities Commission ..	.. 2048 Q
Native Medicine ..	.. 1309 Q
Parliamentary Privileges ..	810-815
Repatriation of Destitute Nigerians ..	.. 1433 Q
Retiring age of Civil Servants ..	1216-1221
Resettlement Schemes ..	.. 1161 Q
Smuggling ..	.. 1841 Q
Special Constabulary ..	.. 2048 Q
Venerable Diseases ..	.. 1309 Q
Visit of Foreign Service Chiefs ..	.. 1161 Q
Yaws ..	.. 839 Q

**Oyewole, Mr S. A. :**

Building Projects ..	.. 3 Q
Ikorodu Road Bridges ..	.. 581 Q
Industries ..	.. 24 Q
Inspection of Federal Roads ..	.. 581 Q
Project Contracts ..	.. 581 Q

**P****President of the Senate (Dr A. A. Nwafor Orizu) :**

Visit of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom ..	.. 481-482, 491
--	-----------------

**Presidential Proceedings Bill (see Bills)****President's Speech ..** (ii)-(x)**Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) :**

Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 21 ..	1447-1448
Ibos in the North ..	.. 2043
Nigerianisation of the Economy ..	2165-2166
Service Conditions of Police Officers ..	1192-1196
State of Affairs in Western Nigeria ..	2044-2046
The 1963 Census ..	.. 111
Threat to National Unity ..	1419-1422
	2207-2211

**Proclamation ..** (i)**Q****Queen's Counsel (Abolition) Bill (see Bills)****R****Registered Land Bill (see Bills)****Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill (see Bills)****Resolutions :**

African Common Market ..	.. 1885
Business of the House ..	206, 587, 848, 1167, 1437, 1698, 1853
Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) :	
(No. 2) Order, 1964 ..	.. 572
(No. 3) Order, 1964 ..	.. 572
(No. 4) Order, 1964 ..	.. 2221
(No. 5) Order, 1964 ..	.. 2223
Committee of Selection ..	.. 5
Debate on the Address ..	.. 328
Excise Duties (Amendment) Order ..	.. 612
Geological Map of Nigeria ..	.. 1916
Housing Scheme for Low Income Workers ..	.. 228
International Trade ..	.. 764
Made-in-Nigeria Goods ..	.. 270
Nigeria's Bridges and Floods ..	.. 240
Postal Facilities in Rural Areas ..	.. 1252
Procedure on Supplementary Appropriation Bill ..	.. 507
Renaming of Monuments bearing Colonial names ..	.. 1868
Report from the Business Committee ..	.. 505
Resolutions adopted by the 52nd Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union ..	.. 221
Retiring Age of Civil Servants ..	.. 1234
Service Conditions of Police Officers ..	.. 1196
Sitting of the House ..	.. 506
Six-Year Development Plan ..	.. 829
Widening of all Federal Roads ..	.. 1210

**Rosiji, Chief Ayo. :**

Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1370-1381
Com. Head 31 ..	.. 1654-1655
Com. Head 55 ..	.. 1973-1977
Overhead Bridge along Western Avenue ..	1889, 1891

**S****Saidu Zango, M. :**

Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	1121-1123
Debate on the Address ..	.. 174-176

**Salihu O. Abdul, M. :**

Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R ..	956-962
-------------------------------------	---------

**Senu-Oke, Mr D. :**

Guinness Excise Revenue ..	.. 200 Q
Housing Scheme for Low Income Workers ..	.. 222-225
Import Duties on Drugs ..	.. 200 Q
Industrial Investments ..	.. 577 Q
Larger Industries ..	.. 577 Q
Military Training in Western Germany ..	.. 728 Q
Overhead Bridge along the Western Avenue ..	.. 1885-1887
Resolutions adopted by the 52nd Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union ..	.. 221
Sugar Production ..	.. 575 Q

**Shehu Shagari, Alhaji (see Internal Affairs Minister of) :**

	Column
<b>Shekarau Ka'a Layya, M. :</b>	
Ginger Ale Factory in Southern Zaria	1252-1253
Prices of Ginger	108 Q
Southern Zaria Postal Facilities	330 Q
Zonkwa Airport	99 Q
Zonkwa Postal Agency	330 Q

<b>Shisha, Mr V. T. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R	922-925
Com. Head 23	1493-1495
Com. Head 31	1648-1650
Debate on the Address	313-316

<b>Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Rulings :</b>	
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 55	1978-1979
Business Committee	995
Debate on the Address	26
Director of Audit's Report (1962-63)	2059

<b>Sule Abba Biu, M. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R	942-949
Com. Head 25	1569-1570
Com. Head 39	1770-1771
Insurance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill	537
Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill	496-497

**Supplementary Appropriation (1963-64)  
(No. 2) Bill (see Bills)**

**T**

<b>Taiwo, Mr J. O. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R	982-988
Department of Pharmacy	837 Q
Pharmacists' Strike	837 Q

<b>Tarka, Mr J. S. :</b>	
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 26	1577-1578
Com. Head 60	2013-2017
Com. Head 623	2089-2090
Com. Head 630	2126-2128
Com. Head 636	2149-2152
Business of the House	585-586
Debate on the Address	50-53
Excise Duties (Amendment) Order	602-604

<b>Tarkande, Mr P. O. :</b>	
Benue Mineral Survey	1850 Q
Gboko Post Office	1949 Q
Industrialisation of Benue Province	1692 Q
Industry for Benue Province	27 Q
Lagos-Makurdi Trunk	1949 Q
Police for Benue Province	43 Q
Reconstruction of Narrow Bridges	31 Q
Recruitment of Tivs	37 Q
Tarring of Trunk 'A' Road	32 Q
Tiv Riots	1678-1681
White Population in Nigeria	43 Q

<b>Tobun, Mr L. O. :</b>	
Excise (Control of Distillation) Bill	2200
Excise Duties (Amendment) Order	595-596

<b>Transport, Minister of (Hon. R. A. Njoku) :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R	706, 857-866, 944-945
Com. Head 55	1979-1983
National Transport Board	807-810
Resolutions adopted by the 52nd Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union	218

**U**

<b>Ubani, Chief M. W. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R	1278-1287
Flood Commission	1900-1902

<b>Udenyi, Mr J. U. :</b>	
Appropriation Bill :	
Com. Head 32	1659
Com. Head 627	2115-2116
National Provident Fund Bill	1415
Presidential Proceedings Bill	417-418
Removal of Vehicles, etc. (Lagos) Bill	480-481

<b>Udo-Inyang, Mr D. S. :</b>	
International Trade	760-764
National Provident Fund Bill	1412

<b>Ukah, Mr N. D. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R	915-922
Com. Head 25	1576
Com. Head 46	1920-1923
Construction of a wider Bridge	28 Q
Defence Industries Bill	461
Ekwerazu Postal Agency	1948 Q, 20 Q
Electricity for Mbaise	17 Q
Foreign Service Officers	49 Q
Mbaise Minerals	1849 Q
Mbaise Police Station	1429 Q
Military Installations	38 Q
Nigeria's Diplomatic Representatives	2051 Q
Nigerian Representatives abroad	1432 Q
Owerri Divisional Postal Agencies	1948 Q
Provision of pipe borne water	1429 Q
Qualified Non-graduate Teachers	15 Q
Queen's Consel (Abolition) Bill	431-433
Relations with Fernando Po and Cameroun	2051 Q
Responsibility for Education	15 Q
Sitting of the House	506
Taking over of Trunk 'B' Road	28 Q
Urban Unemployment	16 Q
Widening of Owerri-Aba Road	29 Q

<b>Ukegbu, Mr B. N. :</b>	
Debate on the Address	162-169
Excise Duties (Amendment) Order	587-590
Presidential Proceedings Bill	426-427
Registered Land Bill	559-560
Uniform Electricity Rates	193 Q

<b>Ukpong, Mr B. U. :</b>	
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R	1114-1116
Army Recruits from Calabar Province	197 Q
Education as a Federal Subject	396 Q
Ikot Ekpene Post Office	329 Q
Ikot Ekpene Power Plant	194 Q
Leakage of Examination Papers	398 Q
Mid-West Elections	388 Q
Ministers' Tour	11 Q
Palm Produce Prices	108 Q
Perfumes Factory	109 Q
Police Quarters	10 Q
Proposed Ikot Ekpene Round About	95 Q
Unemployment	200 Q

<b>Ukueku, Mr J. :</b>	
Debate on the Address	81-84
Director of Audit's Report (1962-63)	2061-2062
Insurance (Miscellaneous Proceedings) Bill	527-528

**Umaru, Galkogo, M. :**  
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. .. 647

**Umaru Gala, M. :**  
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R 990, 991-992

**Umaru Gumel, Albaji :**  
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill :  
Com. Head 24 .. .. 1533-1535

**Umaru Maltumbi, Albaji :**  
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R 1135-1137  
Com. Head 58 .. .. 2002-2003  
Com. Head 625 .. .. 2111-2112

**Usman Borkono, M. :**  
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill :  
Com. Head 58 .. .. 1995  
Conversion of Postal Agency .. .. 41 Q  
Postal Agency for Adamawa Province .. .. 40 Q

**Usman Wazirin Kontagora, M. :**  
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R 1101-1103

**Usumanu Maitambari, Albaji (Minister,  
of State, Commerce and Industry) :**  
African Common Market .. .. 1882-1885  
Ginger Ale Factory in Southern Zaria 1254-1256  
International Trade .. .. 754-756  
Made-in-Nigeria Goods .. .. 246-248

**Uwaisul Karni, M. :**  
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. 1038-1041

## W

**Wada Nas, M. :**  
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R 988-989, 1299

**Works and Surveys, Minister of (Alhaji the  
Hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) :**  
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill :  
Com. Head 58 .. .. 1984-1988 2009-2012  
Flood Commission .. .. 1902-1904  
Nigeria's Bridges and Floods .. .. 236-240  
Overhead Bridge along Western Avenue  
.. .. 1888-1889 1890  
Widening of all Federal Roads .. .. 1206-1209

## Y

**Yacim, Mr J. A. :**  
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. 709-7 5  
Com. Head 25 .. .. 1564-1565  
Bridges .. .. 29 Q  
Nigeria Legion Bill .. .. 502-503  
Orphans .. .. 1155 Q, 1136 Q  
Repatriation of Nigerians .. .. 48 Q

**Yakubu Allanana, M. :**  
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. 640-642  
Com. Head 23 .. .. 1474  
Makurdi-Jos-Fadan-Karshin Road .. .. 97 Q

**Yerokun, Mr S. A. (Parliamentary Secretary,  
Ministry of Information) :**  
N.B.C. North Transmitter .. .. 2162-2163  
Publication of the Official Report .. 1630-1631

**Yilgwen, Mr G. :**  
Industrial Projects .. .. 576 Q  
Northern Produce Officers .. .. 576 Q  
Police .. .. 9 Q  
South Africa at U.N.O. .. .. 392 Q  
Telephone Service for Shendam .. .. 332 Q

**Yusha'u A. Mohammed, M. :**  
Appointment of Census Inspectors .. 2050 Q  
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill :  
Com. Head 39 .. .. 1765-1767  
Com. Head 55 .. .. 1970-1972  
B.B.C. News .. .. 736 Q  
Cement .. .. 575 Q  
1963 Census Field Staff .. .. 2050 Q  
Establishment of Industries .. .. 1687 Q  
Imported Cement .. .. 1687 Q  
Lagos-Zaria Trunk Line .. .. 332 Q  
Made-in-Nigeria Goods .. .. 240-243  
Major Road Contracts .. .. 579 Q  
Salary of Census Supervisors, etc. .. 2051 Q  
Voice of Nigeria .. .. 736 Q, 1848 Q  
Zaria Aerodrome .. .. 3 Q  
Zaria Kano Road .. .. 579 Q

## Z

**Zubairu Umar, Albaji :**  
Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, 2R .. 962-963  
Com. Head 58 .. .. 2008