



FEDERATION OF NIGERIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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SECOND SESSION

1961-62

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NIGERIA

Thursday, 13th April, 1961

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

Mr Speaker : The following Paper which has been published in the Supplement to *Official Gazette* No. 48 of 12th January, 1961, copies of which have already been distributed to Members, is deemed to have been laid on the Table :—

The Rubber (Inspection for Export) (Amendment) Regulations, 1960 (Legal Notice No. 5 of 1961).

The following paper already distributed to Members is deemed to have been laid on the Table :

Report of the Motor Vehicle Insurance Investigation Committee, 1960.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Road Accidents

O.61. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Prime Minister, if he is aware that most of the motor accidents on our roads are due to negligent and reckless driving on the part of illiterate motor drivers, and if he will consider taking steps to improve the situation by establishing compulsory driving schools to train motor drivers all over the country.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : Many accidents on our roads are the result of reckless and negligent driving but this should not necessarily be attributed to incompetency or illiteracy. Government maintains a high standard of driving test in order to ensure that only qualified drivers obtain driving licences.

The establishment of driving schools is not considered a proper function of Government. There are a few driving schools in Nigeria run by private enterprise, and certain employers improve the driving technique of their drivers by training. There are also organisations, such as the Road Safety Committees, which hold, with the assistance of Government, road safety weeks and disseminate road safety propaganda by the use of films, radio, television and posters with a view to educating drivers in proper driving methods.

Establishment of a Socialist State

O.99. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Prime Minister, what proposals he has for the establishment of a socialist pattern of society and the discouragement of unrestrained capitalism in this country.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : The term "socialist pattern" is rather vague. If the hon. Member intends to use the term in its classical connotation to mean *complete* transformation of the economic and moral basis of society by the substitution of social for individual control in the organisation of life and work, I would say that the Government has no proposals in that direction. However, there are forces which are at work in our society which point, irresistibly, in the direction of democratic socialism. Unrestrained capitalism is being discouraged in this country by the establishment of statutory corporations, by the investment of Government funds in industries and the encouragement given by the Government to co-operative movement,—a movement which grew up initially as an answer to unrestrained capitalism.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema) : Can the Minister tell us what the forces are in this country that work for democratic socialism ?

Mr F. C. Ogbalu : Is the Minister aware that the home policy of India is the establishment of a socialist pattern of society ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : That is a new question.

Establishment of a Republican Constitution

***O.100. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Prime Minister, what proposals he has for the establishment of a republican constitution for Nigeria within the Commonwealth.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : I have no such proposals.

Vehicle Licensing in Northern Nigeria

***O.101. M. Ahmadu Fatika** asked the Prime Minister, whether he is aware that many lorry owners experience difficulty in renewing their vehicle licences in Northern Nigeria ; and what steps he is taking to ameliorate the situation.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : No, Sir, the licensing of motor vehicles in the Northern Region is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Local Government, Northern Nigeria.

Welfare of Nigerians in the Southern Cameroons

***O.102. Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Prime Minister, what specific arrangements have been made to protect and safeguard the life and property of Nigerian nationals in the Southern Cameroons; and what channels are there through which the plans can be made known to them.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : Until the actual termination of the trusteeship over the Southern Cameroons, the United Kingdom Government, in its capacity as Administering Authority, is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the Southern Cameroons and the protection of life and property of all persons resident in that area, irrespective of their home of origin. Even before the separation of the Southern Cameroons administration from Nigeria in October 1960, the Federal Government had made representations to the United Kingdom authorities about the vital need to ensure that Nigerians resident in the Cameroons are given adequate protection within the law. In consequence, provisions relating to Fundamental Human Rights similar to those in the Sixth Schedule of the Nigerian Constitutional Order-in-Council are incorporated in the Southern Cameroons Order-in-Council which came into force on the 1st of October, 1960, and which still apply in the territory.

The Federal Government is determined to make every effort to protect the interests and property of Nigerians in that territory. There are plans to establish a Nigerian office in Buea to give necessary assistance and promote the welfare of Nigerian nationals in the Southern Cameroons. When the territory comes to be incorporated with the Cameroun Republic, the Nigerian Embassy in that country will have the overall responsibility for the welfare and care of Nigerians in the Republic as a whole.

Any reports received about unduly harsh treatment to Nigerians in the Southern Camer-

oons will be referred to the proper authorities for investigation and the matter will be pursued through diplomatic channels.

Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East) : Is the Minister aware of the mass retrenchment of Nigerians working in the Government Departments in the Southern Cameroons.

Fire Fighting

***O.103. Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Prime Minister, whether he considers fire fighting a proper function for the Nigeria Police; and, if he does not consider it proper, how soon does he propose to establish fire brigade units in rural districts in Nigeria where the risk and danger of fire are greatest.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : Fire fighting is a function proper to a local authority. It has never been treated as a function of the Nigeria Police Force. The Lagos Fire Brigade is a distinct unit which, for the time being, is administratively under the Inspector-General of Police.

Following the recommendation of the Nigeria Constitutional Conference in 1957 that consideration should be given to functions that might be transferred from the Federal Government to the Lagos Town Council, the Federal Government has decided that the Lagos Fire Brigade should be brought under the control of the Lagos Town Council. This will be done as soon as the Brigade is put in good order with satisfactory accommodation, up-to-date vehicles, well officered and manned.

Fire fighting is a residual subject and the provision of fire brigade units in rural districts is therefore a matter for Regional Governments.

Prime Minister's U.K. Visit

O.104. Mr S. A. Yerokun asked the Prime Minister, whether he will make a statement on his recent visit to the United Kingdom.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana) : Yes, Sir, the statement will be made in the Committee of Supply.

Inspector-General of Police

O.105. Mr A. Akomolafe asked the Prime Minister, what plans he has for appointing an indigenous successor to the out-going Inspector-General of Police.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : I would refer the hon. Member to section 103 subsection (2) of the Constitution. I have not yet been consulted by the Police Service Commission.

Assistant Superintendents of Police

O.106. Mr A. Akomolafe asked the Prime Minister, how many Police Officers who are of the rank of Assistant Superintendent and above are expatriates, and how many are Nigerians in each category.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : There are 210 expatriate and 236 Nigerian Police Officers of the rank of Assistant Superintendent and above.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Contributions to the U.N.O.

O.107. Mr S. A. Yerokun asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, what response Government have made or propose to make to the appeal by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organisation for special financial contributions to assist the Congo to restore and maintain its essential public services.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs : Nigeria has paid her normal contributions to the expenses of the United Nations Organization and is ready to bear her normal quota of additional expenses authorized by the responsible body of that Organization.

It is not yet known how much Nigeria would be expected to contribute specially to the United Nations operations in the Congo. When that information is received from the Secretary-General, consideration will be given to the matter.

Diplomatic Missions

O.108. M. Ahamdu Fatika asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, how many countries applied to establish diplomatic relations with Nigeria since the attainment of independence ; how many applications were granted and how many were not.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs : Since the attainment of independence 42 countries have applied to establish diplomatic relations with Nigeria. Of these 25 have actually established missions in Lagos, but diplomatic relations with one of them have since been severed.

The applications of the other 17 countries are at different stages of consideration ; some of these have already been granted permission to establish missions but have not yet completed their own arrangements for opening Offices in Lagos.

No application to establish diplomatic relations with Nigeria has, so far, been refused.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema) : Will the Minister tell this House whether the Republic of China is one of those 25 nations ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs : It is not one of the 25 nations.

Nigerians in the Sudan

O.109. M. Ahmadu Fatika asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs if he is aware that there are about three million Nigerians in the Sudan, and if he will make a statement on their welfare and what steps he is taking to prevent this unnecessary migration.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs : No, Sir. Our information is that there are at present only about half a million Nigerian nationals in the Sudan.

The welfare of the Nigerians in the Sudan has always been the concern of this Government and one early step taken by Government, long before independence, was the appointment of a Nigerian Pilgrim Officer in the Sudan. Although he was primarily responsible for Nigerian pilgrims passing through the Sudan to and from Saudi Arabia on pilgrimage ; he was also concerned with the welfare of the Nigerians in the Sudan during the period between the pilgrimage seasons.

Since 1st October, 1960, we have established an Embassy in Khartoum and the Ambassador is actively furthering the good work begun by the former Pilgrim Officer. He and his staff have toured several parts of the country where Nigerians are settled and have been able to

[PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY] acquaint themselves with their problems. Documentary films dealing with Nigeria are shown by the staff of the Embassy at the Nigerian Social and Cultural Centre at Ishash to which members of the Nigerian Community go regularly for recreation and other social activities.

The problem of preventing the unnecessary migration of Nigerians to the Sudan is receiving the urgent attention of both the Federal and the Northern Regional Governments. As a first step, the Federal Government has already repatriated, by air, thousands of destitute pilgrims who form the bulk of the present Nigerian population in the Sudan; and plans are afoot for the exercise to be repeated this year. Meanwhile the question is under careful examination with a view to introducing a more effective system of control.

Murder of Patrice Lumumba

O.110. Mr B. N. Ukegbu asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, what effort he has made to bring pressure to bear in the right quarter at the United Nations Organisation to ensure that those responsible for the murder of Patrice Lumumba are discovered and properly dealt with.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs: This Government strongly condemned the circumstances leading to the death of Mr Lumumba. Our Permanent Representative in New York, who serves as a member of the United Nations Advisory Committee on the Congo, has strongly urged, along with the representatives of several other countries, that the circumstances of Mr Lumumba's death be investigated. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has now established a panel of three independent judges from Ethiopia, Togoland and Mexico which will now investigate the causes of his death and affix responsibility for this unfortunate occurrence.

Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North): How soon does the Minister hope the investigation will take place?

Constitution of the Congo

***O.111. Mr B. N. Ukegbu** asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, what is the attitude of the Government towards the proposed dismemberment of the Congo into a loose

confederation of semi-independent states; and whether the Government will not lend its support to the proposals of the Conciliation Commission for a federal constitution for the Congo.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs: This Government does not intend to interfere in the internal affairs of any other country. However, all Nigerians actively wish to see peace and progress in the Congo. This Government is therefore prepared to assist the Congolese themselves to reach a solution of their own problems. The Government has noted the proposals of the United Nations Conciliation Commission and will support any final recommendations reached by the United Nations General Assembly through the common consent and agreement of members of the World Organization.

Casablanca Conference

***O.112. Mr B. N. Ukegbu** asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, whether Nigeria was invited to the Casablanca Conference of certain African States; and if so, why she did not attend.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs: Yes. The Government received an invitation from the late King of Morocco to attend that conference on January 3rd this year, but the invitation was received only 13 days before the commencement of the conference.

Because of the limited time available and the previous important commitments of the Prime Minister, including an international conference due to open in Lagos on January 3rd, the same date as for the proposed Rabat conference, it was not possible to attend the conference.

As this honourable House may be aware, the Government is very much concerned about the developments in the Congo and in other parts of Africa, and has repeatedly expressed its willingness to contribute in any way possible to the peaceful solution of such problems in a manner which will result in happiness for all. The Prime Minister has also openly affirmed that he would be ready at any time to take part in any conference towards this end, in so far as such conferences are preceded by careful

preparation and planning, and an agenda prepared and circulated well ahead of the proposed date of the conference so as to avoid fruitless discussions.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): We know the Prime Minister is a busy man and we do not want him to be killed; but in cases like this, when he is busy, can he not send a representative? We do not expect him to go to every international meeting?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs: It was meant for Heads of States or Heads of Governments, not representatives.

Mr Ukegbu: Does the Minister not think that his non-attendance, or his not sending of a representative, might be interpreted as isolationism on the part of Nigeria?

The Parliamentary Secretary: No, I do not think so.

Encouragement of Nigerian Authors

*O.41. **Mr R. O. A. Akinjide** asked the Minister of Education, what steps he is taking to encourage young Nigerian authors to produce books and pamphlets.

The Minister of Education: Quite recently a conference of Nigerian authors was held at the University College, Ibadan, to consider problems connected with the publication of text books. The Ministry was represented at this conference and every opportunity is being seized to encourage Nigerian educationists to write books. The adoption of a book for use in schools, however, depends on its merits, and recommendations in this regard depend ultimately on teachers and on their opinions on the effectiveness of a book as a teaching aid.

Certain works of an academic nature, however, have, in spite of their high quality, a limited sale, and in such cases the Federal Government is prepared to consider giving financial assistance and has, in fact, done so in the past. The Nigeria Magazine of the Ministry of Information and the educational publications of my Ministry welcome contributions from Nigerian authors.

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East): Is the Minister aware of the existence of an Association of African Authors and if so is he prepared

to subsidize that body in order to encourage African authors?

The Minister of Education: I am not aware of such a body.

Igbo Language Syllabus

*O.113. **Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Education if he will cause the West African Examinations Council to replace without delay the present syllabus in Igbo Language with a more progressive and inspiring one.

The Minister of Education: No, Sir. The Federal Government's power in relation to the West African Examinations Council are limited to nomination of four members of the Council. The Council's constitution provides for advice to be tendered by local committees. There is a local committee for Eastern Nigeria and the most effective channel for the hon. Member to communicate his suggestions regarding the Ibo language to the Council would, I suggest, be to the Deputy Registrar of the Council's Nigeria office the address of which is: "P.M.B. No. 1022, Yaba, Lagos" for the consideration of the appropriate committees or sub-committees. It is very interesting to note that this is the third occasion in which hon. Ogbalu has asked this question. In other words, it is my hon. friend's yearly exercise.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East): Point of explanation, Mr Speaker. I just want to tell the Minister that I-g-b-o is not Ibo. The correct thing is I-b-o.

The Minister of Education: It is Igbo as well as Ibo.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND BILL

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson): *Second Reading*—This day.

PENSIONS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL

The Minister of Establishments (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari): *Second Reading*—This day.

NIGERIAN CITIZENSHIP BILL

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. M. Usman Sarki): *Second Reading*—This day.

Federal Parliament Debates

1435

[Business of the House]

13 APRIL 1961

[Appropriation (1961-62) Bill :
Committee]

1436

ELECTORAL (TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) BILL

The Minister of Internal Affairs : *Second Reading*—This day.

HIGH COURT OF LAGOS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Justice (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias) : *Second Reading*—This day.

REGISTRATION OF BUSINESS NAMES : BILL

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima) : *Second Reading*—This day.

SHERIFFS AND CIVIL PROCESS BILL

The Minister of Justice (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias) : *Second Reading*—This day.

NIGER DELTA DEVELOPMENT BOARD BILL

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Sir, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : *Second Reading*—This day.

NOTICE OF MOTION

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, That the proceedings on Government Business, other than in Committee of Supply, be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), and such business shall be taken at the following times—

- (a) on the interruption of Proceedings of Supply till 6 p.m. ; and
- (b) from 9 p.m. onwards.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the proceedings on Government Business, other than in Committee of Supply, be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), and such business shall be taken at the following times—

- (a) on the interruption of proceedings of Supply till 6 p.m. ; and
- (b) from 9 p.m. onwards.

ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1961-62) BILL

(First Allotted Day) : CONSIDERED IN
COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

House in Committee.

The Chairman : Order, order. The clauses to this Bill stand postponed pursuant to Standing Order 63 (7) until after the disposition of the Schedules.

HEAD 21—STATE HOUSE

£71,850 for Head 21—State House—agreed to.

HEAD 22—CABINET OFFICE

Question proposed, that £326,430 for Head 22—Cabinet Office—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise only to make an appeal to the hon. Prime Minister that the salary of the hon. Prime Minister should be given some consideration. As a matter of fact I feel in my own opinion that the salary of the Prime Minister is too big. Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Members of this House to a recent publication in one of the local newspapers about the Government of Tanganyika. Mr Chairman, with your kind permission I beg to quote : "The elected Ministers of Tanganyika Government have agreed to cut their salaries by £1,000 a year, it has been officially announced in Dar-es-Salaam. From this month their salary drops from £2,800 to £1,800. . . ."

Mr Chairman, Sir, we are seriously looking for money to carry out major developments in this country and as the Minister of Finance put it the other day when he made his Budget Speech he made it quite clear that every possible avenue within the country would be exploited to raise money to carry out some of these development projects. I am quite sure that one of such avenues is in cutting down salaries right from the Prime Minister to the Floor Members of this House, and I am quite convinced that an average Nigerian no matter what post he is holding in this country can live well on a salary of not more than £100 a month.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I know that as far as the Prime Minister is concerned he is not going to oppose this suggestion, he is going to accept a reduction in salary, and I would therefore suggest that a salary of £3,500 per annum is quite sufficient for the Prime Minister. I know he is going to accept it, and if he sets the good example for us the junior Members of this House to follow, I personally will be prepared

to receive £600 as my salary for a whole year. And if the ordinary Members of this House are given £600 each then I see no reason why each Minister should not be given £2,000 and their Parliamentary Secretaries £1,000 each. I think that is quite sufficient and if this is done I am quite sure that within a year the Federal Government will be able to make a further revenue of almost £10,000 or approximately half a million pounds.

In addition to that, Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that there is something I do not understand in this particular Head of Estimates. Last year, the Federal Government spent almost half a million pounds as inducement allowance and this year almost a million pounds is going to be spent as inducement allowance. This means that after the Prime Minister has received £5,000 a year we go all out to spend heavy sums of money as inducement allowance. Are we inducing the Prime Minister to hold the post of the Prime Minister? I do not know the person we are inducing in the Cabinet Office.

It is time we do away with all this sort of allowances. To induce is to bribe and we cannot keep on bribing people to serve this country. This allowance was all right when we had the imperialist Government because at that time the white men were afraid to come to Nigeria because of mosquitoes but I do not think that there is any Nigerian here who will say that he is afraid of mosquitoes and as a result we should induce him to come and hold a high office in this country.

Sir, I think I will leave this matter to the discretion of the Prime Minister. We are not going to compel him to accept a reduction in his salary; all I am doing is that I am appealing to the Prime Minister that if he accepts to reduce his salary to £3,500, a Minister's to £2,000, a Parliamentary Secretary's to £1,000 and a Member of the House gets £600, we shall be very happy to co-operate with the Government. (*Hear, hear*).

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Chairman, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr Brown, saw what he was doing and tried to amend it at the end. But I would like to inform the House that I am quite prepared to enter into a very solemn promise with him that my salary should be cut down by £5 and he will receive £600 as a Member of this

hon. House. My salary should be reduced by £5 according to him. (*Interruptions*). Sir, this is really a very solemn promise and I hope that you will direct that when the Pay Clerk pays my hon. Friend he should pay him at the rate of £600 a year and I would see that mine is cut down by five pounds. (*Applause*).

The Chairman: Order, order. As the hon. Member has not moved it will not be necessary for me to put the question. So, if hon. Members wish to speak on some of these sub-Heads they just speak on the Heads and not move unless they intend specifically to move the Motion.

Chief Obafemi Awolowo (Ijebu Remo): Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not wish to speak on the salary of the Prime Minister. I think that his salary is quite in order but without telling tales out of court the Prime Minister himself, in conversation with me the other day, said that he would be satisfied with a much reduced emolument. Well, I do not think that the Minister of Finance will like the reason which he gave for his desire for a reduced emolument.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): He rejected the offer!

Chief Awolowo: The reason is, of course, that the higher your salary the heavier the Inland Revenue falls upon you. So I do not think that we should envy those who receive big salaries.

Sir, there are a few points which I would like to raise in connection with the office of the Prime Minister. He is responsible for a number of vital matters in the Federation. The security of the State is a matter within his jurisdiction. May I say, with respect and in all solemnity, that the security of the Country is suffering a steady but sure corrosion and this corrosion is proceeding from the northern part of this Federation.

Some time ago, fourteen people—sometimes it is said that the number is less, but even accepting the number given by the Northern Regional Government—eleven people were murdered in cold blood in Maiduguri. It is not my business to investigate and ascertain who the offenders are but the point I wish to make is the members of the Action Group and members of the N.P.C.

[CHIEF AWOLOWO]
were murdered in the unfortunate rioting in Maiduguri. The position now, Sir, is that only members of the Action Group are being prosecuted and indeed some of them have been prosecuted to conviction in respect of the murder committed by them. It is strange and I think it borders on very grave scandal that the murderers who are members of the N.P.C. have not been brought to book up to this moment. If a thing like that were to continue then the security of the State will be imperilled and jeopardised.

It is the duty of the Prime Minister to see to it that whenever a criminal act is committed in this country the perpetrator, the culprit, is brought to book with the quickest possible despatch. My remark, Sir, in answer to somebody who said, "what about the Tiv Division?" applies with equal force to any offender from any party whatsoever. Every offender must be brought to book whether he is a member of the Action Group or whether he is a member of the N.P.C. or whether he is a member of the N.C.N.C.

The security of this State will be imperilled if members of certain parties, particularly of the N.P.C., were to get away with the impression that they can perpetrate any evil, any crime, with impunity. That is the position now in Maiduguri and other parts of the Northern Region.

The second point I wish to make, Mr Chairman, is this. It is the sole responsibility of the Prime Minister to appoint Ministers and to deploy them as he likes and when he likes. It is also his duty to co-ordinate their activities. May I also add that it is his sole responsibility to create whatever portfolio he desires. (All these duties are laid down in the Constitution and they are unchallengeable.) In the performance of that duty the Prime Minister created the portfolio of Economic Development. This portfolio, Sir, is a key portfolio. The Minister of Economic Development is responsible for a number of vital matters. For instance, he has to co-ordinate activities between Ministries in Economic matters. He is responsible for the economic planning of the Federation of Nigeria, and he is responsible for a host of other matters which are vital to the promotion of the welfare, the prosperity and happiness of the people of this country. If that Ministry

fails Nigeria will fail with it. No amount of exercise on the part of the hon. Minister of Finance will succeed unless the Ministry of Economic Development is a grand success. That is the bedrock on which all of us stand. That is the bedrock on which the Federation of Nigeria is founded; the prosperity of the 35 million people of this Federation is founded on it.

But what do we find? The Prime Minister treats with most reprehensible levity the affairs of this Ministry. I will not use a stronger adjective though the levity with which the Prime Minister treats this Ministry calls for a stronger adjective. But may I content myself with saying that it is a most reprehensible attitude which he has adopted to this Ministry. For some months now that Ministry has not had a substantive incumbent. The gentleman who was in charge was not too bad. At least he could keep the wheels moving. Then the Prime Minister in pursuance of his duty appointed some other person who is a capable person and who can hold down the job effectively.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (S. Lana): I think, Mr Chairman, that we are now dealing with the estimates under the Cabinet, and I think the hon. Leader of the Opposition can speak when we come to the item under the appropriate Head.

The Chairman: Order, order. I think the hon. Member was collecting facts in support of his criticisms of the activities of the Prime Minister. Although it does not come under this Head but I think he can be given more time to discuss matters relating to it.

Chief Awolowo: The Prime Minister's activities lie practically on all Heads of this Estimate. He is the alpha and omega of all Ministries; and when I say that I know what I am talking about.

As I was saying, Sir, somebody who is capable of holding down that job was appointed. But what do we find? He was sent away from the country and the Ministry of Economic Development languishes as a result. The country and this hon. House would like the Prime Minister to take more seriously the affairs of the Ministry of Economic Development. It is a key Ministry; it is the key Ministry and he should take it seriously.

The third and last point I wish to make concerning the Prime Minister is in respect of his duty to co-ordinate all Ministries. If I am asked on a point of order not to pursue the point I will resume my seat very gladly because I know that I can raise it again on some other Head. But this has to do with the Prime Minister.

There is going to be a Trade Mission to various countries of the world.

Several hon. Members : An Economic Mission.

Chief Awolowo : A Trade Mission. That is what we have been told in this House. These words were used : Trade Mission.

An hon. Member : But it has since been corrected.

Chief Awolowo : I am not aware of that, I was not here when the correction was made, At any rate, that puts a different complexion on what I wanted to say, Mr Chairman. I was going to say that the proper person to lead a Trade Mission is the Minister of Commerce and Industry. But now that we are told that it is an Economic Mission, well, I will shift my ground. But my argument still holds that the Minister of Finance is not the proper person to lead an Economic Mission. If the Minister of Economic Development is not trusted as being capable of leading an Economic Mission then the Prime Minister should appoint somebody else in his place. But the Minister of Finance is not the proper person to lead an Economic Mission. He can lead another Mission. He can go and borrow as he used to do. He can attend the International Monetary Fund meetings and he can attend a host of other meetings which deal with financial matters. But when it comes to an Economic Mission the proper person to lead such a Mission is the Minister of Economic Development.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I thought that the three points made by my hon. Friend the Leader of the Opposition would be points that the Back-benchers should make. However, since my hon. Friend decided to raise these points himself I think it will be better if I reply him properly. I honestly feel, Sir, that it should not be the person from that side to raise the points he did because I feel he

is a man who is rather above this sort of thing. It is, of course, the duty of my hon. Friend the Leader of the Opposition, either inside this hon. House or outside it to draw my attention to serious matters which demand our attention and which will definitely go to affect the country as a whole. When he speaks to me, I believe that he speaks to me very seriously and that he means what he says.

Now, the security of this State is, of course, the responsibility of the Prime Minister. It depends on the interpretation which my hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, gives to security. The responsibility for the maintenance of law and order throughout the Federation is not only that of the Federal Government but is also the responsibility of all the Regional Governments as well as local government bodies.

My hon. Friend referred to an incident in Maiduguri where certain people were murdered. Well, the matter, of course, was taken up by the Police and by the courts, and I think the Prime Minister has got very little to do in this matter other than to accept the courts' decisions on these matters.

Now, I do not like to suggest that any particular person, or any group of people in this country, is in the habit of stirring up trouble, but I am afraid that when we are talking of matters of this kind, one cannot help telling the country the truth. Now, the party to which the hon. Leader of the Opposition belongs is a party which is out to provoke other parties, (*Applause*) and I do think it is common knowledge among all of us that wherever the Action Group is there is bound to be trouble. (*Applause*). (*Interruptions from Opposition Benches*). If only the Opposition will allow me to reply.

They bring their trouble either by helicopter, by land-rover or by bicycle. Honestly, if you know how I feel about the Action Group, you will be very much surprised, because if there is any organisation which I do not fear at all, it is the Action Group. (*Cheers*). I sincerely mean it. It is a collection of irreconcilable elements. Honestly, that is why I do not take the party very seriously, and what I do not like really, Mr Chairman, is for people to appear in this House as if they had the interests of the country at heart more than other people or as if they were more concerned about the safety of the public than other people.

[PRIME MINISTER]

As I told my hon. Friend the Leader of the Opposition, if we in the Government go out of our way to cause anything to happen, to bring disaster to the country, it is not only the Opposition that will suffer, but the Government also will suffer, and if the Opposition goes out of its way to cause anything to bring about disaster, it is not only the Government that will suffer, the Opposition will also suffer. So it is our duty, both on the Government Bench and on the Opposition Bench, to try to see that we do what will bring about happiness to all the peoples of this country. (*Hear, hear*). It is our duty, and that is what we should do and—

The Minister of Defence (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): We must deport Awolowo before we can have happiness. (*Laughter*).

The Prime Minister: Having heard the remark of my hon. colleague, the Minister of Defence, I think that at the proper time, I will listen to him. (*Laughter*).

Quite seriously the hon. Member mentioned the riots in Maiduguri, which is in the Northern Region, and he referred to the party to which I belong, the Northern Peoples' Congress. There were riots and troubles at Ibadan on the death of the late Alhaji Adegoke Adelabu. Very sad things happened, and I quite remember that nobody in my party or any Member of this House tried to put the blame on any section of the community. And the people who were murdered were many times, more than eleven times, more than the people murdered in Maiduguri, and we did not raise a finger because we left those to the security officers and to the courts to deal with them. However, they were not Action Group members.

The Leader of the Opposition, who knows what he is talking about, tells, you that I am responsible for security in the country. I am in possession of a lot of information, some I can make public and some I will never make public, and I know whenever any situation develops anywhere. I know quite a lot.

Now, the second point that my hon. Friend the Leader of the Opposition mentioned is the question of the Ministry of Economic Development. Well, it is very common, as my hon. Friend knows. When he was head of a

Government, a Premier elsewhere, he appointed Ministers and later on made them roving Ministers, flying all over the world. Their work, Mr Chairman, was not affected because the Cabinet has got collective responsibility as well as individual responsibility.

And my hon. Friend, the Leader of the the Opposition, told the House that the Prime Minister had appointed another Minister to look after the Ministry of Economic Development. Well, I have got a Minister who is looking after the work of the Minister of Economic Development. It is not uncommon in any part of the world where a system like ours is in practice for the Government to find it necessary, at times, to send away a member of the Cabinet for very important assignments.

When I was going to New York, I took some Ministers with me and I thought I should leave behind me the Minister of Economic Development to head our Mission in the United Nations. He did so well there in that Organisation—(*Applause*) he did so well that the United Nations thought it fit to appoint him as Chairman of a Reconciliation Committee in the Congo. Now, the work is going on. The work of the Committee has not been completed; they have produced a report, the report will come to the United Nations Assembly; and I think Members will agree that it is only right that we should allow that gentleman to continue the international service which he has started for us. I do not think, Sir, there is any need for anyone of us to quarrel with this at all.

An Opposition Member: Who pays his salary over there?

The Prime Minister: Mr Chairman, Sir, I think that small group over there is always dreaming about money! (*Laughter*).

Chief Awolowo: Sir, this small group here is always thinking about small money, but that group there is always thinking of big money! (*Laughter*).

The Prime Minister: Sir, that is the very thing I want to put into the mind of the Leader of the Opposition—that those sitting on my left should think big!

So, Sir, these are the reasons why I think the Minister of Economic Development is away and, as far as all of us know, in a Cabinet system the work of the Ministry does not suffer

at all. I am glad, Sir, that the hon. Leader of the Opposition feels that the Ministry of Economic Development is a very important one, because if I have not done anything good I think at least he should agree that this is entirely my own creation (*Hear, hear*); because we did not have such a Ministry before, nor do they have it somewhere else.

Chief Awolowo : Point of information, Sir. The Prime Minister merely emulated the Western Region Government. There has been a Minister of Economic Planning there since 1957.

The Prime Minister : Mr Chairman, Sir, the Minister of Economic Planning was appointed there, I think, after I had a long interview with the former Premier of the Western Region. (*Laughter*).

Sir, the third point raised by the Leader of the Opposition concerned co-ordination. He said that the Economic Mission which the Federation is sending to tour parts of the world should not be headed by the Minister of Finance, but should be headed either by the Minister of Commerce and Industry or by the Minister of Economic Development. Now, I want to draw the attention of the House—you can see how my hon. Friend wants to bring mis-understanding between these people. That is his way, you know (*Shame, shame*). You see, the Leader of the Opposition wants to bring the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Economic Development and the Minister of Commerce and Industry, and jam their heads (*Laughter*). It is so.

Sir, we have sent missions abroad many times; sometimes those missions were led by Regional Ministers though they are Federal Missions; sometimes they are led by Federal Ministers. It does not matter who leads our missions, as long as the members of the missions will work as a team and will portray Nigeria as one united country. (*Hear, hear*); and it is my hope, Sir, that when our Economic Mission goes abroad, there should be no differences at all between members of different Governments, North, East, West or Federal. They should all work as a team regardless of their political feelings at home, and I hope my hon. Friend the Leader of the Opposition will assist us in seeing that this Economic Mission goes and returns as a team. (*Hear, hear*).

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : Mr Chairman, Sir, it is most unfortunate that

so honourable a person as the Leader of the Opposition. (*Interruption*).

The Chairman : Order, order !

Shettima Monguno : Maiduguri, Sir, had been a seat of a Local Government and a very peaceful town whose inhabitants enjoyed all the necessary privileges until the influence of the so called party, the Action Group, crept into it. There had been in Maiduguri, Sir, rival political parties and there had never been, I repeat there had never been a clash resulting in casualties until again the influence of the Action Group crept into Maiduguri. (*Shame, shame*).

Indeed, Sir, it is said that none are so deaf as those who deliberately refuse to hear. It is common knowledge, Sir, that members of rival political parties in the Western Region are subjected to persecutions of all kinds. In the alleged incident which happened in Maiduguri, all concerned, in my opinion, fairly and squarely had been brought to justice, and through the Law Courts and through the legal institutions of this country justice has run its course and those concerned convicted.

Fundamental human rights, Sir, should not be misinterpreted. Law and order should not be taken by a few individuals for personal gain into their hands but, Mr Chairman, Sir, it is most gratifying and we have been grateful for the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister in this House, that he would not let those people who would attempt to take the law into their hands get away with those things that they are after in the future. This is most gratifying and I am extremely thankful to the Prime Minister over that.

Mr U. O. Ayeni (Afenmai North West) : We are called upon to vote £100,000 of expenses for Federal Government Delegations abroad. No one actually quarrels with Delegations abroad. But since Independence we have had two Delegations, one went to the United Nations Assembly in New York and, recently, one went to the Commonwealth Conference in London.

The Chairman : Will you please tell the hon. Member he cannot be heard and will he please raise his voice ?

Mr Ayeni : What I want to say is that this House should get a report of whatever happens in any Delegation which the Government sends

[MR AYENI]

abroad. When the Prime Minister came back from the United Nations, something like a pamphlet covering the speech he delivered should be distributed among Members so that we know actually what he said. We cannot rely on the "Daily Times" or any other newspaper for what our leaders say abroad especially on speeches made by the Prime Minister.

Besides giving such pamphlets to Members of this House, I would advise that such information should be given to our Institutions of higher learning so that these men can make up their minds and know exactly what the Government is doing.

Just a few days after Mr Adlai Stevenson spoke in New York the U.S. Information Office sent us exactly what he said. There is nothing we can lay hands on from which we can say, "This is what our Prime Minister said in the United Nations." That is what I just want to tell the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to my hon. Friend, Mr Ayeni, for raising this matter. This is a matter I think for the Minister of Information, who is tackling it. It is a question really of publicity on what we do.

I am very surprised to hear that the hon. Member has not yet received a copy of, I think, a publication by the Minister of Information of Nigeria at U.N.O. But he will really ask you to see the Leader of the House about it and I think you should be supplied with copies of such publications and, wherever possible, this House, or the hon. Members, should be informed of the representations which can be made public of the Delegations and Missions which we send abroad but, equally too, I will refer it to the Members of the House.

It is not always possible to make public what a Delegation or a Mission has done abroad, apart from giving you the itinerary or such other simple things. We have also sent out a Parliamentary Commission from this House to visit other parts of Africa. They have not reported. I am not complaining. But I think it is right and proper that all hon. Members and all the people concerned should really be properly informed of what the Government or Government representatives, Regional or Federal, are doing abroad. I

agree with you.

Chief A. Akerele (Oyo East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I know that the Prime Minister is a very busy man and the only thing, Sir, is that I feel that he should at least relieve himself of some of his duties. It is about time, Sir, that we had a Minister of Foreign Affairs appointed in this House. No doubt quite a lot of the Back Bench boys have been kept here because of this appointment and I think the sooner the Prime Minister makes this appointment the better it will be for the solidarity of this House.

Quite a lot of gentlemen do not seem to know whether they are crossing to *this* side or remaining *there* because, at the present, the Prime Minister is just dazzling this appointment in their eyes. (Laughter). I hope, Sir, the Prime Minister will make up his mind about this appointment.

The Prime Minister: This is the last point and I think the work of the Prime Minister is to try to bring as much compromise as possible but I do not accept the suggestion made by my hon. Friend, Chief Akerele. There is a Prime Minister somewhere else who is very much older than myself. I think he is his own Foreign Minister. I think this is not uncommon. I am of the same age as my hon. Friend opposite there.

Chief Akerele: A year older. (Laughter).

The Prime Minister: So, Sir, I think if the House will agree, I think I am strong enough to carry the burden that I am carrying. (Laughter). I hope to continue, Sir.

£326,430 for Head 22—Cabinet Office—
agreed to.

HEAD 23—POLICE

Question proposed, That £4,624,430 for Head 23—Police—stand part of the Schedule.

The Prime Minister: Sir, I have it in command from the Governor-General to move to include the following additional provision. "Sub-head 46—Establishment of Additional Frontier Posts on Eastern Nigeria Border, £62,980"

Now, hon. Members will be aware that as a result of the changed position in the Southern Cameroons we are not very sure of the security of our border which, in the Eastern Region, is on the Southern Cameroons. Therefore we found it necessary, Sir, to increase our

Police establishments in some of the towns or the Stations along that border. We have taken, Sir, other security measures as well. If (I hope it will never happen, Sir) it is necessary, we know exactly what to do in case of trouble.

Members are also aware, Sir, of terrorist activities on the other side of the Southern Cameroons and we do not like undesirable people to be pouring into Nigeria and this is the main reason, Sir, that I am asking for this additional provision in order to cover that operation.

Question proposed, That Head 23 be increased by £62,980.

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw) : Mr Chairman, this is one of the serious items that we should discuss in this House. I would like to touch an issue which should be viewed seriously and that is, we in this House have repeatedly raised the issue that a certain person in this Department has been victimized by a political party.

The Chairman : We speak on Sub-head 46, and I ask the hon. Member to speak within the scope.

Mr Ezonbodor : Mr Chairman, I would like to reserve my remarks until we finish this item.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would very much like the House to let the public know that it is not to the best interest of this country that the Police, particularly those at the boundaries, resort to rudeness and insult to people who are crossing the Nigerian borders, and the more we establish these boundary posts, it appears to me, the more we are expanding this type of rudeness to outsiders. It is, therefore, very necessary that the Police Department should control, at least, the discipline of their workers.

M. Baba Shehu Ibrahim (Borsari Damaturu) : Mr Chairman, Sir, the Amendment of the increase of provision moved by the hon. Prime Minister is very welcome, but I would like to make some suggestions, because I come from the Province which is nearer the French border. We are experiencing great difficulties, particularly our own traders who deal with the French people who are residing along the border. We require proper protec-

tion from our Government, because the pressure from the French Cameroons Republic is so unbearable, and it is to our disadvantage. Our economy is greatly affected. I wish the provision to be increased in order to provide Police on the borders along Bornu, Bama, and Mubi.

The Chairman : This Sub-head is an additional sum for the coast of Eastern Nigeria Border and not for anywhere else.

The Prime Minister : It is not necessary for me to reply to this, Sir, as you have rightly pointed out, but I want to correct the impression that might have been created by the hon. Member. Between Nigeria and the Chad Republic there is nothing but peaceful relations, and we have no trouble whatsoever on the borders between us and the Chad Republic. There might be occasions of raids by thieves and things like that, but this is common and it is not so serious to warrant the posting of additional security officers along that border, and Members, of course know very well that the reason why we are having this provision specially for the Eastern Region is because of the special position which has been brought about by the changed situation in the Southern Cameroons and by the activities of terrorists in the Cameroons Republic.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, the point I want to make here is in connection with the category of Nigeria Police designated Sergeant Majors. I have seen from experience and from complaints that the category has increasingly become a dumping ground, a sort of limbo of the forgotten for those Police officers who have failed to make the grade either by promotion or attainment.

I think, Sir, that it is a wrong psychology to have to relegate a group of officers to this type of blind category. Usually Sergeant Majors retire on this level after 25 to 30 years of unsuccessful service in the Police Force. So eventually they are laid here to rest in peace or wait for retirement. Nigerians are feeling that this is a zone of frustration where people have no prospect of going further, no respect from the junior officers in the Police Force, and no respect from outside. The result, therefore, is in underground activities, such as detailing junior police officers to go out and check motor

[DR NZERIBE]
 traffic, and you know what that means, and when they come back they report to their madam at the backyard. This is a very common practice in the Police Force with the Sergeant Major rank.

When they retire usually they are on the salary of about £27 or £28 per month with a gratuity of less than £400 and with a pension of £5 to £6 per month. This breeds a kind of vicious circle in which the main factor there is a cause and at the same time an effect. Stagnation causes frustration, and frustration causes stagnation. At the moment you will see that we have about 21 categories in the Nigeria Police Force, and the rank of Sergeant Major is the seventh grade. We have the 3rd Class Police, the 2nd Class Police, the 1st Class Police, the Lance-Corporal, the Corporal, the Sergeant, the Sergeant Major, the Cadet Inspector, the Inspector, the Inspector Grade I, the Chief Inspector, the A.S.P. and so on and so forth up to the 21st category. There is no other place in the world where a person has to go through all these categories. For instance, even if you are promoted every year, it means that you will have to be in the Force for more than 21 years before you get to the highest rank and nobody who has any self-respect would like to be in a Department where the possibility of going to the top is almost nil. The Sergeant-Major grade of the Police should be abrogated and those there at the moment either promoted or retired or given something that is commensurate with their service in the Police Force. Also, I say, Sir, that because of the increasing demand for expatriates in the Police Force, the Ministry should consider seriously making it possible for graduates to enter into the Police.

Mr Abii : What are the graduates going to do ?

Dr Nzeribe : I am going to tell you what the graduates are going to do ; wait Mr Abii, I am going to tell you. Knowledge is important in the Police and in the colonial days they insisted that the Police should do this or that before they could prosper. At the moment, economic development in Nigeria and social development in Nigeria call for a more diversified and informed leadership in all categories the service, and the time has come when a semi-illiterate and the half-educated man will be put into the Police Force.

In America, for example, to become a member of the C.I.D. and the F.B.I., one has to go through series of studies and through four years in a University to get a degree and when he goes to the Police Force to be an expert, he will be an expert in the real sense, so that it is wrong to think that to be a Policeman is a failure in life. If a Policeman is a man who has failed to make the grade, it is wrong to think that that is his way of life.

I am emphasising that knowledge is desirable and that knowledge gained from history, or from science or from economics or from political science or from law can be transferred to the Police Force and if we have these men with great knowledge of the social sciences, of law, of economics, of political sciences in the Police Force with the prospects of promotion, with self-respect, with integrity, this will do a lot to enhance the prestige of the Police Force.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, before I make the few observations I have to make, I would like to refer hon. Members of this House to my speech during the debate on the Motion of thanks to His Excellency the Governor-General for his Speech from the Throne as far as the Police is concerned. I said that there are many irregularities in the way Police are invited for promotion to the higher posts. I would like to substantiate this allegation with the following points.

Now everything done in the Force to-day in practice shows that the Police Force is regionalised. When this point was raised by the Action Group that the Force should be regionalised, there were cries from all corners that this was a wrong policy, but to-day experience has shown that the present position is that this Department is now regionalised. I say this because people from certain sections of the country (I do not intend to mention names or Regions) seem now to dominate the whole place because people from such sections are not qualified and they are simply called there without interview, without the necessary qualification and because there is some aim which is not made known to the public so that these people are brought. Even some of the people who were in the same training with

them quarrel with them because they stand the chance of being expelled. This is why I think that the Police, instead of being a Federal subject, is now a Regional subject.

Now, I would like to refer to some other points. Promotions generally, I said, are not based on qualifications or efficiency. This is so because there are many who have worked for donkey 25 years and they are not encouraged either because they are not fortunate to be resident or working in the Regional Headquarters or in places like Lagos, or because they have no relatives or brothers, or because they have no long-legs, or they are unable to offer the fattest *kola* as it is at present the practice. I think that this is something very serious which should be looked into.

In the Speech from the Throne, mention was made that the Force is going to be expanded. I think that this is a very laudable scheme and I praise the Government for the steps so far taken. (*Hear, hear*). But, in practice and in effect, I do not feel that this is being pursued because what we see in the Estimates is that there are additional vacancies, perhaps vacancies which we hope to fill with our jobless relatives. I think that if this policy is to be pursued, an attempt should be made to establish Police Stations in many places where they are supposed to be. This will be in compliance with this policy. If to have additional vacancies is not the only way of expanding the Force, efforts should be made to build Police posts in various places especially in the rural areas in the interests of peace.

I would like to mention here, Sir, that provision was made in last year's Estimates to build a Police Station at Agenebode. I agree there is one there now, but the Police live in hired quarters and I think this is expensive to the Government. The best thing should be to try and build permanent quarters for the Police at Agenebode because, as I say, hired quarters will prove to be more expensive to the Government. I make that point because I feel it is something very serious.

Now, I would like, before I take my seat, to make reference to the economic mission. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order. We are on Police and not on economic development.

Mr Obi : Anyway, Mr Chairman, from what I have said you can see that what we are trying to do in Nigeria is not in conformity with what we try to show to the outside world. We try to show to the outside world that Nigeria is one; if we do not show in practice, we show in words that Nigeria is one, that we want a united Nigeria. I do not think that we are sincere in going to the outside world and trying to tell people that we are one while here in Nigeria, when we want to make appointments, for instance, we have the courage to segregate people either because they belong to a particular section of the country or because they happen to share a different view politically from that of the powers that be.

I think, Mr Chairman, that we ought to look into all these things seriously.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Agbaja and Ngwo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to speak on promotions in the Police Force generally and in doing so, Sir, I would like to say that promotion in the Police is, to say the least, based on very bad practice. It is based on the principle that you are either related to this man or that you are friendly with the man at the head.

I would like to refer specifically to the promotions from the rank of Sergeant to Cadet Inspectors of Police. The procedure, Sir, is that Sergeants are selected from the Regions and all of them are brought either to Lagos or elsewhere for training. At the end of the training, Sir, an examination is held. Then one would have expected that promotions should be based on the results of the examinations, but what do you find? Unless an individual has a special confidential report from the head of his Region, he will not be promoted even though he secured first place in the examination. What is the reason of sending somebody from Enugu to Lagos or from Kaduna to Lagos for training when you know actually that you are not prepared to promote him at the end of the course? That is a very bad situation and that has been going on for a very long time now. The promotion to this rank does not depend on your activities either indoors or outdoors or in your academic attainment at the end of a course.

[MR ENEH]

Again, Sir, there is a scheme for the training of Cadet Inspectors overseas with the prospect of their being promoted to Assistant Superintendent of Police. What happens? When they are sent overseas, after spending about six to eight months, they return and yet their promotions are not based on the result of the examination. You will find somebody who secured first position in London, when he comes out here he finds that a man who had a tenth or twelfth position is promoted an Assistant Superintendent of Police when he has not even the facility of getting an interview.

An hon. Member : What about the character?

Mr Eneh : Again Sir, if an Inspector of Police has not got a good character, he should not be sent overseas, he should not be made a Cadet Inspector. He should not have been promoted from the rank of Sergeant to that of an Inspector. The best thing to do would be to sack him if his character were bad.

There is at present a system whereby you recruit civilians into the Police Force, those who have G.C.E. qualifications and so forth. Members of the Police Force who have these qualifications are not entitled to enjoy this facility. Why should that happen? If you are recruiting people who have the G.C.E. qualifications outside into the course of Cadet Inspector, why is it not necessary that young men in the Police Force who are already qualified, who have G.C.E. qualifications should enjoy the prospect of being trained as Cadet Inspectors?

Finally, Sir, I would like to say that the whole Force should be reshuffled because if you look through the ladder list, you will find from it that the most senior Nigerian there holds the 25th position and the second most senior holds 28th position. This should not be so. And worst of all, the recruitment in the Force is one-sided. Still, people are being invited from overseas when there are many people below the ladder who are struggling for promotion.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support

Mr S. A. Ogedengbe (Owo North): Mr Chairman, I am going to speak on Women Police. The Government has done some

work in introducing women police into Nigeria. To-day, if you go to the streets of Lagos, Ibadan and probably Enugu, we have women police doing a very useful job for the community. The Government should please encourage more women into the Police Force. These women police are doing very very good work among school children in the streets and among women. So much for police women.

There are a lot of accidents on Nigerian roads and most of these accidents are caused by incompetent drivers. There are many places in the country where licences to drive vehicles are generally bought. I am speaking from practical experience. I knew of a V.I.O.—Vehicle Inspection Officer—in the Nigeria Police who was doing very good work and who would never issue a driving licence to an incompetent person. What happened is that his own station was deserted by apprentices. They went to another V.I.O. who was in the practice of collecting £15 and on collecting it, he issued the driving licence whether he passed or failed; as long as the sum of £15 is paid, he will get a licence.

I also knew of a case where a vehicle was never sent to a vehicle ground. There was a middleman, a mechanic. He went round to collect £12; he collected the £12 and he gave it to the V.I.O. A commission of £2 was given to the mechanic and to my greatest surprise, all the particulars, road-worthiness, all these things were issued and given to the lorry owner.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): You saw all?

Mr Ogedengbe : I am speaking from experience and.....

Several hon. Members : Mention names. (Interruptions).

Mr Ogedengbe : I think I have absolute privilege to speak on the Floor of this House and I say that it is a hidden secret in this country. I am not the only person who knows of this. (Interruptions).

The Chairman : Order, order.

Mr Ogedengbe : If we are going to be sincere and true to our conscience that there are some so-called big guns in this country who are in the practice of employing incompetent,

unlicensed drivers, what they generally do is to use their so-called long legs to approach these Vehicle Inspection Officers. "Oh, this boy is a good boy. He has been driving my car for about six months; even though he has no licence, he is good or even better than a man who has a licence. What can you do for me? Issue a licence?"

Finally, Sir, I will be speaking about the security of the Nigeria Police. I appeal to the Government to employ only Nigerians who are competent, who are trustworthy, the qualification should not be the Nigerian nationality to hold these key posts in the Nigeria Police. The Inspector-General of Police ought to be a Nigerian. Happily, the Government has not appointed somebody to fill that post. We are now appealing to the Government, in the interest of good Government of this country, to employ a Nigerian to hold that office. And the Commissioners in the Regions ought to be Nigerians as well. I am not suggesting that the substantive holders should be terminated and driven away from this country but they can become advisers, they can be made advisers or officers holding special duties.

It is not becoming of an independent country to see the principal Police officers as foreigners, technically foreigners. If one goes to the streets of London, I mean to see an African wearing a police uniform, even as a recruit, it would be a crime in London to allow a Nigerian to wear a police uniform, even as a recruit; and when I say a crime, I do not mean an offence which is punishable in the courts of law. I am just using the English language as such. I know that in the United Kingdom, if you have your qualifications, they say 'apply' How many Nigerians have applied as Police officers there? If you go to Whitehall for instance where they have their principal Ministries and all these things, you will not see a single non-Britisher holding a responsible post in any field.

I am appealing to this Government that we have the capable men. Independence once conferred is irrevocable. Once we have our Independence, whether we had it only six months ago or not, we are the architect of our own fortune. We have the material. Are you saying that we have not got the men in the Nigeria Police Force who can hold these

offices? I am not saying that we should copy England all the time, but after all, until a few months ago we were looking to England for almost every direction. Their civilians are employed in the Police Force.

We have barristers, we have doctors, we have this and we have that: why cannot we do the same thing in Nigeria? We must take a survey, a manpower survey, of the country and appoint people who are competent, who are very honest. If there is any department in the country where honesty should be the first consideration for appointment, it is the Police Force.

On the whole, even in Lagos here—you can take an excursion to-day and perform that experiment—you will see the Police Officers on traffic duties: they stop drivers on the way. Ostensibly, they are doing their work very well, but, in fact, they will have a discussion with the driver. "Why do you do this and why do you do that?" You will discover that the two of them, the traffic Policeman and the driver, will move away from the crowd and the passengers. What happens? Only two bob, two shillings is collected by the Policeman and he says: "All right, I have got all the particulars, expect a summons", and he never gets any summons. Finally, if anything is wrong it is not only wrong with the Police, it is wrong with the citizens of this country as well.

An hon. Member : And you are included.

Mr Ogedengbe : Yes, I am included. But at the same time, there is a saying in Nigeria: "If you are not competent, physically and otherwise, and do not cheat or do not do that, you will find that the great man will even cheat you the more or punish you." The trouble is this; if a Nigerian, if an average citizen reports the matter to the Police, "I saw that Policeman collecting a bribe", he is in for it because other fellow citizens who saw the Police Officer collecting the bribe will not have the courage to come forward and give evidence even in the court, and invariably you find a complainant, the very person who has gone to the Police Station to complain, coming as an accused person to the court, and the Police men are so ruthless in their attempt to persecute citizens.

[MR OGEDENGBE]

They will collect untruthful evidence and, after all, the Judge or the Magistrate is not an angel. He will decide the case on the facts presented to him: the thought of man is not tried. You can only decide the case on the material before you. The Police will just give crooked evidence in court and you will find that a complainant is called an accused person and that will be a lesson; that will teach other people a lesson.

I know James, I know Dada who honestly walked to the Police Station yesterday to report a matter to the Police but to-day they have been convicted. I cannot go to the Police Station to report a matter because what has befallen Dada and James will not befall me.

And finally, I appeal to the Government to think seriously about the Police. If there is any body in the Police Force who is not satisfied with the work he can be dismissed, but those Nigerians who are doing very good work ought to be encouraged. I know of two persons—I am not an advocate of these gentlemen—I know of these two officers who were to act as A.S.P.s for over a year. They spent eighteen months acting and without committing any visible crime they were reverted again to their Inspectorate Grades. I think this is a waste of manpower.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban): Mr Chairman, Sir, on this question of Police Force in Nigeria I would like, in the first place, to say that there are many capable Police Officers who were discharged from the Force and these men have done valuable service for the country, but due to the fact that, one way or the other, the expatriate Officers were of the opinion that those individuals would take their place, they were forced or victimised either to resign from the Police Force or they were discharged.

Now I am appealing to the Government to reconsider the case of experienced Police officers who had, one way or the other, by ill-treatment by those expatriate Officers who have dominated the high posts in the Police Force, been forced to retire and to-day many of them stay in the country, doing nothing. They have experience; they know how to go about with crimes, and they are interested still to work in the Police Force, but they were forced to retire in order to create posts for

European Officers. Now I am appealing to the Government to see to it that their case is taken into consideration and that they may be recalled.

Mr Chairman, in fact, I filed to move a reduction on Sub-heads 2 and 5—Police, Other Charges—and as I am called upon now to speak on the Head and not on those Items, I think I will speak on them when the time comes.

Several hon. Members : You can speak on them now. Go ahead.

Mr Okoronkwo : The time has not come. But now I am appealing to the Government to see to the case of those Police Officers, African Police Officers, who were forced to retire from the Force.

M. Abdullahi Magajin Musawa (Musawa): Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting this Head, I would like to say that the condition of our Police Force now is the most excellent since October 1960. The statement made by the last but one speaker is completely wrong. I believe, Sir, that the condition of our Police is good because, from personal experience, three days ago I was caught myself by the Police. Unfortunately, my licence and my insurance have expired.

Sir, the Police Officer who caught me asked me for all the particulars of my car. When I gave these to him he said that he discovered that the particulars had expired and asked me to put out my car on one side of the road. He told me that he did not know who I was, whether I was an hon. Member of a commoner. Sir, that very Policeman gave me a warning and I never gave him a single shilling. He approached me and queried me in a very good manner. I, therefore, believe, Sir, that from October 1960, the month of Independence, the condition of the Police is an excellent one. If the Policemen are wrong, Mr Chairman, I will come honestly and say they are wrong.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): Mr Chairman, Sir, much has been said about the Police, but I will only restrict myself to those things about the Nigerian Police, which have not been touched, and on which we have common interest. We have mentioned a lot, and a lot will be mentioned afterwards. The Prime Minister in whose Portfolio is the Nigeria Police, should be good enough to

inform this hon. House of what happened in a case of a man who openly in this country, at Bariga, near the C.M.S. Grammar School, in broad daylight took a cutlass and cut the head of a small boy seven years old, cut it off. (Some hon. Members! Were you there?) No, but for goodness sake it is true. This case was not investigated at all till to-day and if it was investigated, what was the result?

There was another case of a pregnant woman who was going to the Massey Street Dispensary and a friend of the husband who was driving his car saw her and asked where she was going. The woman replied that she was going to the Massey Street Dispensary. The man said: "I am going to lift you to the place". Going from Ebute Metta, the man turned round from Iddo to Yaba, from Yaba to Mushin and from Mushin to Otta. The woman asked him: "Where are you taking me to?" He said: "I am just going to get something there; I will not be long". And this man took this woman to a village and committed ritual murder on her. It was published in the papers in this country. And we are called here to vote money for the Police to spend. Should we not examine their past works?

The Chairman: I am afraid that the hon. Member should not base his argument upon newspaper reports.

Mr Odulana: Mr Chairman, I am talking about the inefficiency of the Police. They are so inefficient that they cannot detect crimes and what are they good for? But there is one general complaint in the Police Department to-day—the lack of promotion for the right type of people there. People who have been there, ten, twelve, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen and eighteen years are left unpromoted and they just bring some new people there and promote them. To-day you will see in our Estimate as follows: Chief Inspector 18, Senior Inspector 51, Inspector scale H 10, 132, Sub-Inspectors scale H 9, 379, Cadet Sub-Inspectors 24, 58 Sergeant Majors and 620 Sergeants. There are none of these Police Officers in that grade who have not been in the Police for more than fifteen years and the authorities could not get someone to promote from them. Every aircraft and mailboat that arrives in this country carries in it an A.S.P. who has been appointed on contract. If they are good for their country they should remain there.

There are over half-a-million Policemen in London alone. I say that, Sir, and I can prove it if you want me to. These men who cannot be corporal come here and become A.S.P. If you say there is graft going on in the rank and file of the Police, I agree, but it is not all of them who receive bribes. Some of them are good. Those who are good should be promoted. Thus would we advise the Prime Minister instead of flocking the country with A.S.Ps. from abroad. I give you an instance: an A.C.P. who has been in this country for over twenty three years: if you want me to mention names I will mention names.

The Chairman: Order, order, although the hon. Member has not gone a long way from the point, he could discuss it better when we come to Nigerianisation.

Mr Odulana: I agree, Sir, I say, Mr Chairman, that money spent on expatriate policemen is money not well spent. Well, a Policeman who had been in the rank and file of an Assistant Commissioner and retired and went home sought a job in his country was employed as an ordinary policeman to-day. He retired only last year, and was given appointment six months ago. If you want his name I will mention it to the Prime Minister.

I say that experience counts a lot in the rank and file of the Police. It is experience that detects crimes. Those old, old Policemen who have been there for many many years are not all bad. They should be given consideration again.

A Policeman who is a Chief Inspector of Police and acted as an A.S.P. for 18 months, after 18 months his hopes are raised that he would get promotion to the rank of an A.S.P. but he was just shuffled down back again to the Chief Inspector rank. How do you want that man to do his job well to this country? We have had someone who acted 18 months, but afterwards our people go 4,000 miles and brought someone to fill the post. This is what we are decrying in this country. That should be rectified immediately. We do not want to rely on 8,985 first class and second, and third class constables in this country. We need more. If the Prime Minister will confer with the Federal Minister of Finance; whether he will go to loan the money or not we want more Policemen.

[MR ODULANA]

In my area in Lagos a woman got up one early morning to go to the market. This woman carried her bag on her head. This only happened last month. I heard a cry about 5.30 a.m. in the morning and the shout, "ole, ole, ole, thief thief, thief." I opened my window and saw a man running. There was no Policeman near. The woman lost ₦250 that morning. This will not happen in England. The sort of Policemen that they bring to this country are not the right type. They are not teaching our men the right thing.

When Peel introduced the Police Act, they called them after his name, Peacemen, Peacemen, Peacemen. They have so reduced this to troublemen. When you go to England the first thing you see is that Police laugh at you. But when you ask the Policeman to show you any street, he would do so very helpfully. He is well paid and he works well for his nation. It is not that we want our policemen to work for the nation only, they must also receive adequate recognition by way of promotion. I do not mind whether he is a Northerner, Easterner, or Westerner. All I know is that he is a Policeman and a Nigerian. That matters to me most.

But to bring people who cannot be an ordinary A.S.P. in their country to this place and head our Police is not good. And we say that we have achieved our independence. I agree this could happen in the days of colonialism. Now we are free.

The Chairman : I think that should be raised when we reach Nigerianisation.

Mr Odunlana : Mr Chairman, I will now implore the Prime Minister to please look into the case of the Policemen in this country. Mr Chairman, Sir, if we are to assist the Prime Minister to obtain whatever votes he wants for the Police Department, he should in return help us to see that order is maintained in this country. He should see that we have the right type of policemen, not the type who will be sleeping or drinking palm wine on duty. The police duty is to detect crimes and prosecute offenders without malice.

With these few remarks, and more to be said later, I beg to support.

Mr N. Enwo (Afikpo South) : Sir, the expansion of the Nigerian Police Force as contained in the Speech from the Throne is a

good step forward, but I would like to say that it is not enough to recruit so many police constables; it is not enough to train many police officers; it is not enough to promote them. We should expand and develop every aspect of the force and improve the service conditions.

In this respect, I would like to mention that some police stations and barracks are very awkward and uninhabitable. Many of them look like brothels. Take, for example, the Afikpo police station. It is as old as can be. It was built in 1901 and up till now, it has not been improved. The charge-office was once a sick-bay for soldiers and its state remains as it was when the soldiers were there. It is a disgrace to have such a barrack, in spite of all the expansions and developments taking place.

Sir, I have mentioned the establishment of police posts in some parts of Afikpo Division, and particularly in Okosi. There is no barrack for the police; they live in rented quarters. I would like the Government to see that proper quarters and stations are built for the police in that area.

With these few remarks, I support.

M. Shetima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I have very little against the police force in this country. In fact, they have been doing their possible best. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : There should not be so much complaint because a Member cannot speak more than once on a Head. This should not be really challenged so seriously!

M. Ali Monguno : As I was saying, Sir, I only want to express my appreciation for the work done by the Police Force in this country. They have been doing their best, and I would very much like their conditions of service improved. I would also like to suggest, if it is within the means of this Head, an improvement of the police transport system. Police, especially in the Northern Region, experience great difficulties in travelling long distances and in getting to remote areas. I would, therefore, like those areas to be considered and more vehicles provided for use in order to improve the general efficiency of our police force.

Several hon. Members rose in their seats and the Chairman called upon Mr Ekanem. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order, order, when I call an hon. Member, I think the rest must resume their seats, otherwise it will be difficult for me to know whether the hon. Member is there. I have to call now Mr Taiwo.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : Point of Order, Sir, the Chairman first called on Mr Ekanem.

The Chairman : When I called Mr Ekanem, apparently there were many hon. Members standing up and I thought Mr Taiwo was not there, but realising that he is present, I think he should be given the priority.

Mr J. A. Taiwo (Oyo North West) : Sir, I wish to call the attention of the Minister in charge of police to the complete absence of Nigerian Police posts in a very wide area of Oyo North West. For instance, Oyo is the nearest police post and from Oyo to Ijio is about 120 miles. The importance of this area is that it is very near the French border, and there is no police post at all in the area. This affords unscrupulous traders an opportunity to import French liquors and other contraband goods into Nigeria, and thus evade the payment of duty on these goods to Nigerian Government. At this time, when you cannot forecast what can happen to you from your neighbour, I think it is of the utmost importance that strong police post is established at Ijio because it is the nearest Nigerian town to the French territory. We have now seen the need for the establishment of a police post near the French border in Eastern Nigeria. I think there is also the necessity to establish police posts in some parts of the West because it will help us to detect fraud and check infiltration of undesirable elements into this country. I am therefore asking the Minister in charge of Police to look seriously into this.

The next point, Sir, I want to talk about is the general education of the police force. We all know the effect of inferiority complex. If a policeman arrests a somewhat educated person, and the person wishes to show the police that he knows his rights, the policeman will immediately develop a sort of inferiority complex, by trying to irritate the person and quoting all forms of unnecessary laws in order to implicate him.

With great respect, Sir, I want to say that some of these policemen are really rude, and I am speaking from personal experience. There is a great need in an independent Nigeria for the members of our police force to be really educated and courteous and the Government should try as much as possible to import competent policemen from overseas to lecture our policemen on etiquette. They must be taught ethics of the Police. There must be some ethics binding them. We were told here how Policemen in England behave to the public. With friendly manners they show you your way and all that. In Nigeria if you do not bribe your way by saying—Sir—or some sweet words to please him he may not even give you what you are entitled to.

This is very, very important indeed and, I think, the earlier the Government sees to it the better, that we put into our Police Force men of the right calibre. They should be taught how to behave in their training. If necessary, the Government should increase the number of years of their training so that they can go through different aspects of training; the cultural training, the educational training, and back it up with history if possible so that they can compare favourably with Policemen in other countries and they will be more useful to the nation. (*Interruptions*).

Hon. Members should not hurry me up because this is an important subject which affects everyone of us in this House. It is time for the Government of a free Nigeria to think seriously of improving our Police Force and enlarging it. I think the best way to improve the behaviour of our policemen would be to try and teach our students in their last year in a secondary school the rudiments of police work. I feel this will help the students to like police work and they will be able to take more interest in police work when they leave school, because some of the students when they leave school do not think of other jobs which are important, they always think of office work. So I think the Minister should take this into consideration.

Sir, I beg to support.

Question, That the increased sum of £4,687,410 for Head 23—Police—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 24—MINISTRY OF COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY

Question proposed, That £503,120 for Head 24—Ministry of Commerce and Industry—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South-East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish under this Head to congratulate the Minister of Commerce and Industry in particular and the Federal Government in general—

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Abaja and Ngwo): Point of Order, Sir. I think the hon. Member is taking precedence over Members who have Amendments.

The Chairman: I think the hon. Member is quite right that the Amendment to Sub-head 1 must come before that of other Heads and, I think, the first Mover should be Mr Eneh and not Mr Akwivu.

Mr Eneh: In moving this Amendment, Sir, I want to find out from the Minister of Commerce and Industry, why is it that South African goods are still being sold in this country? I would also like to ask another question about second-hand clothing which is being dumped into this country and, particularly, I would like to refer to the Japanese trade in this country. If these questions are well answered, I will withdraw my Amendment that the sub-head be reduced by £10.

Sir, this Government has severed connections with the South African Government and the South African Government is no longer a member of the Commonwealth and I think the right thing which should have been done by the Minister of Commerce and Industry is to stop the importation of goods from South Africa to this country. We find in Chellarams, Kingsway and other U.A.C. shops goods from South Africa. I do not know whether we are only trying to sever connections with South Africa as a member of the Commonwealth or whether this Government is placing economic sanction on South Africa as a whole.

Secondly, I think that it is a matter of prestige that the Minister of Commerce and Industry should not allow second-hand clothing to be dumped into this country. We have passed a Motion in this House prohibiting the importation of second-hand clothing to our country. I want to know whether second-hand goods are

imported to New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and India from America and Britain. Why is it that the Minister should allow these goods to be dumped in Nigeria? Is it because we are getting revenue from it, or is it because these goods are very cheap, or is it because we cannot open our own textile industries here? Our people should be able to get goods from Nigeria.

I consider that what the Minister should do is to establish Textile Industries in Nigeria. We should make the goods here. Our cotton industry should be improved, instead of buying these second-hand goods which will last only two weeks or three months. The best thing is to buy from Nigeria or at best to buy from Britain with whom we are trading. I know the Minister does not wear it but we must think of the poor people of this country. I see no reason why this Government should allow such a thing to continue after independence.

The Minister informed this House that he has asked the Japanese Government to send a delegation to Nigeria to discuss our trade with Japan. That is a very good thing, Sir, but I want to ask the Minister, if we refuse to trade with Japan because of their unwillingness to buy good from us, what adverse effect is it going to have on our economy? I think that is the major reason why the Minister is afraid of this matter, because he has not put his foot down on the Japanese. If he does that the Japanese will buy from us, if he does not he will continue to lose our money, because the Japanese know the business trick. All they want to do is to come here and say, "We will continue to buy from you," and eventually they will buy goods worth about £5 million and we keep on buying goods to the tune of about £100 million from Japan. I want to know from the Minister whether he will refuse importation of Japanese goods if these people are not co-operative.

And finally, Sir, on the question of industries, all we heard about this iron and steel industry is that an American concern is coming to Nigeria to examine the possibility of establishing this industry. But other companies should have been invited to examine the possibility of establishing the industry so that in the final analysis we will select the organisation that gives us the best conditions. I do not want one country alone to be invited. It is a matter of prestige. Also it will be a sorry

sight if this country allows the industry to go into the hands of only one country. This Government should hold controlling shares, at least 51 per cent of the shares, otherwise it would be a very awkward situation indeed.

Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am told by the hon. Mr Eneh that in some of the canteens there are still South African goods. It may be one or two things: one, that the goods might have been brought into the country before the ban was imposed; two, it might be that Nigerians are so patriotic that they refuse to buy South African goods and these goods will be selling only in the canteens. Either is possible, and I know the patriotic nature of the country—*(Interruption)*.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South-East): Is the Minister aware that a good proportion of the provisions sold in the notable shops in this country to-day are bought by Europeans and imported from South Africa?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: Mr Chairman, Sir, whatever may be the predilections of Europeans for South African goods, Nigeria is ours, the order has been given, we have necessary security measures to enforce our regulations and no more South African goods will be imported into this country. *(Applause)*.

Sir, I have been told of secondhand clothing being imported freely into the country. My colleagues and those who know me know how much I hate the importation of secondhand clothing into Nigeria because in Nigeria we grow cotton and other fibre to make our own clothes. But I was persuaded that, as a temporary measure, it may be necessary to relieve difficulties and that it would not be to the honour of the country to allow people to go naked because they have not got money to buy clothes. Because of that we agreed that it should be done in the meantime—*(Interruption)*

An hon. Member: That is for people at Abakaliki.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to appeal to

my countrymen to realise one thing, that if Abakaliki is useless it reflects on the whole of Nigeria. It is no use saying, "I am better than the other man"; we are all Nigerians and I wish that we should be proud that we are all Nigerians. We should be ashamed if any of our fellow Nigerians are below standard, and it is our duty always to help remedy such a situation.

On Japanese trade, I have invited the Japanese to come here. We have taken up the matter diplomatically. The matter is being investigated and I think it is poor kind of negotiation to put all your cards on the table and allow the other man to know your mind and inclinations without your knowing his. So you are not helping me if we try to discuss this thing until they come and they hear from us.

This is a very important Ministry, and as the whole economic development and educational facilities of the country depend upon the successful carrying out of my ministerial work in the field of commerce and industry, I sincerely invite severe criticism.

Chief the hon. Obafemi Awolowo: Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to make one or two points which I consider to be of importance on sub-head 1, that is the Head of the Minister of Commerce and Industry. First of all, Sir, I think the time has come when the Minister should consider the advisability of introducing an anti-monopoly law. I do not need to expatiate upon the dangers of monopoly in any country. I think they are well known and quite elementary, but there are two of these dangers to which I want to make special reference.

The first is that monopolists have the tendency of stamping out all forms of competition within the industries and trades in which they are engaged. Such extermination of competitors is already taking place in this country in regard to certain industries and trades which I do not want to mention specifically. We all know that in certain industrial and commercial fields Nigerians will not dare to show their faces simply because those fields are already occupied wholly and fully by monopolists.

The second danger to which I want to point is that there is tendency also for monopolists

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when they are given full scope to operate to develop into what the economists call monopsonists. The monopsonists dictate the prices not only of the raw materials used by them but also of the finished products. That is what is happening in this country just now. The monopoly concerns in this country dictate the prices of the raw material and they also dictate the prices of the finished products. It is the duty of the Federal Government—the Minister of Commerce and Industry—to take immediate steps to introduce an anti-monopoly law so that these pernicious practices on the part of the monopolists may be completely broken and stamped out.

The second point to which I want to call the attention of the Minister is in connection with the proposal to establish a flour mill industry in this country. I am not, at the moment, dealing with the so-called leakage of the impost of duty on flour and so on and so forth. I am confining myself to the proposal to establish the industry. My own humble view, Sir, is that the proposal to establish this industry is grossly misconceived. My earnest appeal to the Minister is not only to review this proposal but to see to it that the proposal is reversed. In other words, the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry should see to it that the industry is not established. I have reasons for making this rather startling proposition.

Well, the first reason is this—if the industry is established Nigeria, and particularly the present Federal Government, would have a very bad and stinking name abroad. In this connection, I want to call the attention of this hon. House and of the Minister to a publication, a journal with a very wide circulation, which also enjoys great reputation among industrialists and businessmen all over the world. Now, certain things are said in this journal which I do not necessarily believe to be true myself but if the proposal to establish the flour mill industry goes ahead then whether what is said here is true or not the tendency among businessmen and among industrialists would be to believe that what I am going to read out now is true. With your permission, Mr Chairman, I will read just one or two portions. According to this journal, the company which is going to operate this flour mill industry is

the Southern Star Shipping Company. A shipping company entering into a flour mill business.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : What is wrong with that ?

Chief Awolowo : That is precisely what is wrong. It is precisely because a shipping company is going to run the flour mill business that I think it is dangerous for this Government to allow its name to be smeared, to be besmirched by a venture which is very fishy on the very face of it. So, I read : "The Southern Star Shipping Company, S.S.S. for short, of New York, a firm apparently owned by various Greek investors including one of Nigeria's leading businessmen, C. P. Leventis, has beaten our two U.S. firms—Pillsbury and International Milling—for the right to build a 5.6 million dollar flour mill with a capacity of 67,000 tons a year. Some 17 companies were at various times interested in building the mill but several months ago it appeared that either Pillsbury or I.M. would get the deal. Unexpectedly, triple S, the last company to submit a proposal won out".

Then, it goes on—"In return S.S.S. received guarantee of tariff protection.—Locally milled flour will be more expensive than currently imported varieties and the usual investment incentive: tax holiday during the first five profitable years of operation, a first year depreciation allowance on plant and machinery of 40 per cent along with a loss carried forward without time limit and waiver of duties on imported capital goods and raw material. An unconfirmed report states that triple S copied the investment proposals of one of the U.S. firms practically word for word and won out because it promised shares"—and this is very important—"because it promised shares in the future company to Nigerian Government Officials". This is the paper—"Business International".

Now, if the Minister of Commerce and Industry allows this notorious project to go ahead then the name of this Government would be blackened by their own reckless conduct. This is an international publication and I can make it available to the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

My second reason for asking the Minister of Commerce and Industry not to allow this proposal to materialise is this. I consider the project to be ill-conceived. No wheat is grown in this country. The bye-product of a flour mill industry which is called mill-feeds for cattle cannot be used in this country at the moment because we have not got cattle ranches. The Federal Government has been advised, according to my information, that before a flour mill is embarked upon two things must exist: the Government must see to it that there is a wheat plantation in the Northern Region. That will be of great help to the economy of the Federation as a whole, and of the Northern Region in particular. Wheat grows in parts of the Northern Region. The Government has been advised to see to it that wheat is grown in the North and in large quantity to feed this mill. Secondly, that cattle ranches are established in the Northern Region to enable the bye-product, the cattle feeds, produced from the mill to be used in this country instead of being exported back to Europe. (*Applause*).

The Government deliberately ignored this expert advice and wants to go ahead with the setting up of a flour mill simply because the S.S.S. is interested in the flour mill and C. P. Leventis is also interested in this S.S.S. The name of this Government has always been linked up with the name of C. P. Leventis in very shady circumstances and I think the Government would take this opportunity of showing the country that it has no ugly deal with C. P. Leventis. Some of these people from the Middle East have no respect for their own good name and they are prepared to bribe their way through anything. We must tell them that this country is not going to stand for bribery and corruption.

My third reason for asking the Minister to reduce and revise the decision of the Government to go ahead with this plan is that it is bound to fail. In this connexion I am not going to take the time of the House in reading further quotations but I will give this Journal to the Minister for his perusal. This is the "North-Western Miller". That is the title of the Journal. It is an oversea publication which I hope the Minister of Commerce and Industry ought to get regularly. There you will find that similar ventures in various other countries have been started where no wheat is

grown; where no cattle ranches are run and such ventures have failed woefully. The Editor of this paper set up a committee to go into the question very carefully. The Committee chose Haiti for special examination, and they came to the conclusion that there, before they set up a flour mill, the people in the country used to consume as much as 900,000 cwt. of flour, and after setting up the mill, the consumption fell to about 450,000 cwt. That is because, first of all, the quality of flour is very poor indeed and secondly because the price has gone up as is the case in Nigeria. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry to that particular publication and I have no doubt that he will be guided by the expert reasoning contained therein.

The next reason that I am giving in support of my demand that this project should be reviewed and Reversed is that the Government is itself creating a monopoly; a monopoly which belongs to foreigners. It is the first time within my one knowledge (and I have read a good deal about protected or sheltered industries in other countries); it is the first time within my knowledge that an industry solely owned by foreigners is going to be sheltered by a nationalist Government. They are going to shelter an industry owned by S.S.S., a Greek firm, Leventis. They will have five years tax-free holiday; they will have 40 per cent of their depreciation written down a year. The Government is hot taking a controlling share, it is not even taking any share at all and the industry is going to be protected. Who has the money; who owns the profits; who has every other advantage? It is the foreigners of course. I think this is a scandal and the Government should run away from it; they should run as fast as their feet can take them. (*Laughter*).

There are only two other minor points I would like to call the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to. Last year I appealed to Government to consider the desirability of nationalising Insurance. I want to repeat that demand. I will say no more than I said on previous occasions. Insurance is a lucrative business venture. Every third man in this community is an insurance broker or an insurance agent, and so on. We are not pushing them into it. There are insurance companies growing up like mushroom in this

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country. Let the Government nationalise insurance companies, whether owned by Nigerians or owned by foreigners, and make money for the coffers of the Government and for the development of our country.

The other day the hon. Minister of Finance wanted people to save money and he hoped that the resources of insurance companies would be used in the course of the development of our country. Why can he not take over the whole of the insurance companies and not merely make use of the savings belonging to the insurance companies, but also the profits of the companies? I will not touch upon the activities of the firms because my hon. Friend Mr Eneh has already spoken about them.

The last point I wish to make is in connection with the rather inefficient handling of our export products by the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company Limited which is under the charge of the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : No.

Chief Awolowo : But that is what is shown in the Gazette which I have already referred to.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : It is your people who are responsible for the entire business of the company.

Chief Awolowo : I do not know who are my people. My people are the people of the Federation of Nigeria. I am not representing the people of the Western Region only. I have said this before that I am representing the people of Nigeria as a whole.

The Deputy Chairman : Order. I think minor alterations might be accepted.

Chief Awolowo : The inefficient way in which the Nigerian Marketing Company Limited handles the marketing of our export products is disgusting. Now, the Marketing Company mishandles the marketing of groundnuts and of cocoa.

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central) : The Leader of the Opposition is merely prolonging his speech so that the appropriate Minister may not have time to reply.

The Chairman : Order, order; I presume the point of order was made in good faith and I hope there is no serious intention in its intricacies.

Chief Awolowo : With a little bit of prudence and forward planning, the Marketing Company could have easily cut down the heavy losses it has incurred on the marketing of groundnuts and cocoa during the present year. The Marketing Company did not exercise any prudence or caution and it did not have any forward planning and the country has, as a result, lost a lot of money. I hope that the Minister of Commerce and Industry will be guided by the experience of what happened this year in the future conduct of the affairs of the Marketing Company. What is there, for instance, to prevent the Federal Government from voting a sum of money with which to pay the producers of groundnuts and cocoa and then throw a good quantity of groundnuts and cocoa into the sea in order to force the price in the world market?

Many years ago when Brazil was placed in a similar position with coffee and the price of coffee was very low, the government took steps and threw a large amount of it into the sea and the price was eventually forced up so much that the government was able to recover what it had lost in throwing a quantity of coffee into the sea and to pay the farmers an equitable price.

I think the Federal Government should not regard cocoa and groundnut as being commodities belonging to certain Regional Governments. It is through these export products that we pay for our imports, and it is through these export products that we can reduce our adverse balance of payments.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

The Deputy Chairman : Order, order. While I appreciate the keenness demonstrated by Members to remain here long I must say that I am bound under Standing Orders to suspend the sitting till 3 o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.10 p.m.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, although my name appeared on the Order Paper to move to reduce this Sub-head by £10, I should first of all make it clear

that the Minister of Commerce and Industry is one of the Ministers who we on this Side of the House are proud of (*Hear, hear*); and it is only too natural that human beings are far from absolute satisfaction and perfection.

I only tabled this Motion in order to protect the interests of Northern Nigeria tobacco farmers whose industry has been mercilessly monopolised by the Nigerian Tobacco Company. In recent years, the ordinary farmers were attracted by the Company through all sorts of propaganda, in order to convince them to turn to tobacco industry. They were offered high prices and abnormal privileges. Later on, the Company changed the tune, after having succeeded in establishing tobacco industry in the country. The Company was so successful, Mr Chairman, that in Sokoto Province, for example, an average of 50 per cent of the inhabitants living in all suitable tobacco farming areas, take tobacco industry as the greatest means of their livelihood.

Having attracted so many, as I said earlier, partiality and favouritism cropped into the sale and grading of tobacco by the Company's officials, including the most senior ones. In short, Sir, tobacco farmers claim to have laboured for nothing after all. Despite all this, the Nigerian Tobacco Company has recently put the farmers in an awkward position when it admitted that it has now sufficient tobacco and may not buy any more from the producers for the next three years.

Mr Chairman, Sir, this is the position of the tobacco farmers in Northern Nigeria to-day. And this actually is the result of nothing but the opportunity seized by the Nigerian Tobacco Company at the very beginning, to have monopolised tobacco industry in this country. I, therefore, ask the Minister to look into this dreadful situation and find a remedy to it.

The only alternative is to get competitive companies wishing to establish tobacco industry in the country, or for the Minister to explore the possibility of exporting tobacco to the world market. If the quality of our tobacco is not up to export standard, the Minister should consult the Research Division of his Ministry to find a system of making it one of the products for export trade. And if none of these is possible, the Government must have no mercy on the merciless monopolist, and nationalise at once the Nigerian Tobacco Company.

Mr Chairman, Sir, though the Nigerian Tobacco Company is the main reason of the Motion to reduce this Sub-head, I should like to supplement it with one important viewpoint. I am sure the Minister of Commerce and Industry is aware that Gusau Town has recently had an Electricity undertaking. The funds for it were made available by the North Regional Government in order to agree with the growing importance of the town. As you know, Gusau is officially reckoned as the second largest commercial area in Northern Nigeria. I therefore appeal to the Minister to use this opportunity and explore the possibility of establishing industries in this town, in view of its economic importance to the Federation.

Sir, I am sure the Minister of Commerce and Industry has taken note of these points and I do hope that he will do something about them. I therefore beg not to move.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East): Mr Chairman, Sir, this, to my mind, is one of the key Ministries under the Federal Government. We have in recent times achieved our political independence and our next struggle hinges squarely on this Ministry.

Sir, I would like to start by congratulating the Minister in particular, and the Government in general, on the progress they have achieved in the Nigerianisation policy in the Ministry. I think this is one of the Ministries in which a fitting Nigerian is left solely and squarely responsible over the affairs of the Ministry.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Has he given you permit for stockfish? (*Laughter*).

Mr Akwivu: I am very sure that the Permanent Secretary is not from Orlu Division.

I would like to congratulate the Government on the measures they have so far taken to stimulate and encourage the growth of industry and commerce in this country. We have a number of measures, but I think it can safely be said that, apart from the Federal Industrial Loans Board and the Revolving Loans Fund, some of the other facilities provided by the Government are not yet of any practical assistance to Nigerian businessmen.

Before I pass on to something else, I would like to take this opportunity to say that the commercial banks should be congratulated for

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their increasing assistance to indigenous businessmen. Whether they originated the idea themselves or it came from somewhere else, I am not here to enquire into that, but I think that there is certainly a lot of improvement in their policy towards Nigerian businessmen than had been the case in the past; and I do hope they will do more in the future.

In recent years, one is not only mindful of the energy and devotion and drive of the Minister of Commerce and Industry, I think a lot of stimulus also must have come from the Minister of Finance. (*Hear, hear*).

Sir, one of the things that strike one is that on general reflection on the commerce and industry of this country anyone with the vaguest commercial intuition sees very readily commercial and industrial opportunities lying here and there waiting to be realised, appreciated and made use of. But unfortunately there has been some outlook, perhaps more pronounced in our colonial days, which I think, if we are to succeed in the next phase of our Independence drive, we have got to overcome, and that is—if I may with your leave say—the classical colonial, commercial and industrial outlook. Now, that one, I believe, has served its purpose and if we are to justify our sovereignty we have really got to cast that outlook aside.

Sir, this peculiar expression of mine, if I may go on to say, this classical colonial, commercial and industrial outlook, does not see and cannot see, will not recognise nor can it recognise or appreciate commercial possibilities and potentialities. Sir, there is great need for broader outlook if we are to realise the commercial and industrial potentialities in our country. Unfortunately, this colonial commercial outlook, like a horse, sees everything in one direction. It has no room for seeing things the other way round. So, I must say that it is particularly on this aspect that one feels very happy that this Ministry is one in which not only a Nigerian is the Minister, but also a Nigerian is at the head of the policy-making section.

Carrying on, Mr Chairman, Sir, I venture to say that there is great need for caution as well as drive in this Ministry. If one takes a rough look, Sir, one is very much impressed

that there exists some deliberate, pernicious and wicked conspiracy to stultify the commercial growth of this country. If I may give you some examples, Sir.

Where the Government has created opportunity and facility for the indigenous people to participate prominently in business, some adverse factors are set at work. Now if I may refer you to a specific example, Sir, to the palm produce trade in Nigeria to-day. You find that Nigeria is importing (or the Licensed Buying Agents are importing) jute bags from India at highly increasing costs. Early last year, Sir, the cost of a bale of jute bags from India was about £30. By the end of last year, Sir, the cost had risen to nearly £60 and this year the cost is £72 a bale and the Marketing Boards, as far as I understand, are only willing to pay back the Licensed Buying Agents £40. While this is going on, the expatriate Licensed Buying Agents continue to buy jute bags at £26 per bale. The implication is quite obvious.

If the Nigerians for whom the Government have made it possible to participate fully in the produce trade persist in buying, with bags at such a high price, the result will be that while the expatriate competitors will be able to recover their costs and make a profit, the Nigerian Licensed Buying Agents will readily be thrown out of business because either they will not be able to afford to buy the bags, as a result of which, at the end of the produce season they will be unable to buy their quota and lose their licence or, if they persist in buying they will lose so much money that their business and drums will come under the hammer at the end of the year. In either event, Sir, the produce business will have returned squarely and exclusively to the expatriate Licensed Buying Agents.

Now Mr Chairman, Sir, even in this line of business again, you have the palm oil traders. There again, there is even something much more pernicious. From the past eighteen months expatriate Licensed Buying Agents have been closing down their buying stations and selling out their second-hand drums to Nigerian palm produce buyers, and towards the end of last year a new idea dawned on some of the Powers-that-be which is to prohibit Licensed Buying Agents from using secondhand drums in buying oil and delivering

at the B.O.P. The result of this will be that many of the very Licensed Buying Agents the Government have endeavoured to put into business will be completely thrown out. If an individual had bought about five hundred or seven hundred secondhand drums at about thirty shillings a drum, only to have them condemned all of a sudden, then he would certainly be out of business.

The Minister may be aware that there is a company or, rather, there are vested interests in the manufacture of these drums in Nigeria, so that things like this should not be ignored. And if I may say so, Sir, what looks to be much more ridiculous about the whole thing is this. The shape of a drum has nothing to do with the quality of oil. If there is leakage, there is a loss to the man who bought and delivered. I do not see how the shape of a drum could in any way be of interest to the Marketing Board.

And then, Sir, there is even another pernicious trade in the business. How are we sure, because there is very persistent rumour, that there is some vital discrepancy between the testing results of the produce inspection service and the receiving bulk oil plants. The result is that those against whom this practice works have to pay enormous penalties and those whom it favours enjoy enormous profits.

The Chairman : I think the Minister of Commerce and Industry would like to make a statement.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): That is a regional matter. It is nothing to do with me.

Mr Akwivu : Mr Chairman, Sir, I was only illustrating a point. After all, the Minister of Commerce and Industry has the Nigerian produce market as his responsibility. So Mr Chairman, Sir, I leave that point.

I would like to invite the attention of the Minister to one other matter I consider to be very vital. Aid to Nigerian businessmen and industrialists should not begin and end with the granting of loans. After all, many of us have seen and experienced it. Many people regard loans as a sort of windfall. Some do not realise that they will have to be paid back some day so I do feel, Sir, that one of the most

important things that we should explore is the creation of a business atmosphere conducive to progress so that any indigenous enterprises that go into business will be able to make progress within the business, accumulate their own capital and invest how or where they will.

Now it is unfortunate that there is very little time, Sir, but one of the things I have in mind is this, Sir, the Government should explore the possibility of what one might describe as compulsory mobilization or direction of capital. If I may use an example, Sir. If we take an item like jute bags which we import from India. In 1959 we imported jute bags worth £994,000 and in 1960 we imported jute bags worth £1,766,000 from India. And that is the point. Why do we not make these bags ourselves? The cost of setting up a factory is not in any way prohibitive and if I may say, Sir, the bulk of our exports depends on these jute bags and I feel, Sir, that it is one of the things we can do if the Ministry of Commerce and Industry were to give it consideration. I think if you were to make a sort of compulsory contribution from all the dealers in these export commodities of about five shillings per ton, you will, by the end of your first year, have collected nearly £200,000 and the sum so subscribed should constitute shares belonging to those who have subscribed to them. And the advantage we will have there is that within a space of a year we will have been able to set up such a vital industry that we will be able, so far as the production of jute bags and the export of our produce is concerned, to stand on our own and, by that means, adjust the balance of debt in our favour more quickly and I think, Sir, that logic can be applied to many other spheres.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would also like to draw the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to one unfortunate trend that is now going on. We have been agitating for faster industrialization. There is a very speedy drive towards it but, Sir, if our people cannot get into the distributive trade then our purpose will have been defeated. If, for example, Sir, the Federal Government were to own half the shares in a manufacturing firm I think the Ministry ought to insist that Nigerians should take part in the distribution of the products because it is one of the lines of business that want capital very quickly which could be used in some other ventures.

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If I may again illustrate, it is the experience that in some cases where patronage is given to Nigerians in the distributive trade they are made so competitive and unworkable that it ruins rather than make Nigerians to progress.

On the contrary where it is intended to make the trade lucrative it is mainly limited to expatriates. If I may quote more specific examples—Nkalagu Cement, that is just wide open, anybody can go in for it ; NEMCO Cement, anybody can go in for it. But what happens to Star Beer. It is not possible for every dealer to go into the Brewery and buy Star Beer and re-sell outside. It is not everybody that can walk into Heinekens Office, take beer and distribute. These ones are preserved for those they think it ought to benefit. I feel, Sir, that a more generous attitude ought to be adopted in this line. These are the smaller things which, if we ignore, would postpone the date when our people can stand on their feet in business matters.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to refer to the popular shipping line, or what is only known as the Conference Line. I do not know if the Minister is aware, or if he can confirm that there is a 10 per cent rebate policy which is not extended to all importers. Now, this 10 per cent rebate, in a majority of cases, is not extended to Nigerians, and the implication is that the average Nigerian importer is at an initial disadvantage in an amount of two shillings in the pound. I think, Sir, the Ministry should look into that situation and find out what to do to help the importer.

Again, Sir, another way in which the Minister can help our traders is—and I feel that the time has come—for our Government to set up a Central Marketing Agency overseas. We ought to have Central Bank Stations for staple commodities that are regularly imported into Nigeria, because it is one of the grounds on which the Nigerian businessmen are at a serious disadvantage. If a Nigerian businessman pays buying commission of five shillings for all goods bought for him as against a businessman using a wider and more comprehensive buying organisation it goes to put him at a serious disadvantage.

Mr Chairman, Sir, we have been informed about the setting up of a refinery in the

Eastern Nigeria. During the last Meeting of this House a White Paper was circulated to Members, but as far as I can remember that White Paper has not been debated on the Floor of this House. We are now being informed that agreement has been reached. Will the Minister kindly let the House know when it would be possible to have this White Paper debated. And following up that, Sir, may I suggest that with the setting up of the refinery we should consider seriously setting up a Nigerian Petroleum Marketing Company. We should consider setting up this Company just on the same line as the Texaco, or Shell West Africa, or B.P. West Africa. If we do not do that I do not see the possibility of our people well and truly getting into that business at any time in the future.

Mr Chairman, Sir, in view of the eagerness of many Members to speak, I will only try and wind up by asking the Minister of Commerce and Industry if he would kindly explain why our import of cement keeps rising in spite of the fact that we are now having three cement factories in Nigeria. The Nkalagu Cement Factory, as we understand, has a capacity for supplying about one-fifth the cement needs of Nigeria, and NEMCO Cement Factory is also there. It would be interesting to know why it is that the cement imported in 1960 exceeded by far the quantity imported in 1959. And we are not satisfied, Sir, that the selling prices and costs of the locally manufactured cement is as high as it is. One would have expected that with most of the materials being got in Nigeria it should have been much cheaper. As we are informed, the new Western Region factory is already selling at one shilling per bag cheaper than Nkalagu Cement Factory.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I return to the question of reckless granting of lands to aliens—reckless granting of lands to alien enterprisers. Well, I think, for the meantime, because it is a condition they stipulate, and they stipulate it to the Minister of Commerce and Industry when the Federation of British Industries came to Nigeria, I want to say that our Government should be careful. I do not think it would be to our advantage to be extremely desperate at this stage. It would not be to our advantage to be extremely desperate at this stage. We ought to hasten a bit carefully in the way we

invite and hand over freely enterprises and industries to expatriate businessmen. If an expatriate businessman gets land in Nigeria it must be for his own use. If he parades as a landlord, then he must forfeit his right to the land.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna Bukar Dipcharima): Mr Chairman, I thought it appropriate to intervene at this stage in order to correct any false impressions the House might have as a result of the allegations made this morning. In fact I am prepared to concede the fact that the allegations were made in good faith, nevertheless I will proceed to correct them so that people may have the true impression of what actually happened.

I am glad that Chief Awolowo spoke about an anti-monopoly law, but what surprised me most was that he fell into the trap almost at once. Monopolists are very clever people, and in their cleverness they also control the organs of public opinion. According to the journal from which the allegation was quoted, the publication is specially printed for proprietors and clients only, and it may be appropriate that it was brought to the notice of the House through the Leader of the Opposition! Obviously, the flour milling industry have an interest in the journal, and it is perhaps fair for me to state, Sir, that one of the big combines of the business is using the Leader of the Opposition, unwittingly, for its own interests.

For the information of the House, Sir, the Southern Star Shipping Company was, in the first place, introduced to my Ministry and my officials by the Western Region Government. The facts are available, and can be checked with my Permanent Secretary. In the second place, the question of establishing a flour milling industry was freely discussed by all the Governments of the Federation, and they stipulated certain conditions which must be fulfilled before a pioneer certificate can be granted to anyone.

When the matter was discussed we were told—and evidence of this can be shown to Chief Awolowo or anyone—that Tilsbury and Robinhood were not interested in establishing a flour industry, and that they were using delaying tactics in order to protect their own interests; and so we had to look elsewhere. Eventually we agreed on a certain firm which, again because of international complications, we had to drop.

When this company came into operation it guaranteed conditions which the others were not even prepared to consider. We had explained that, in Northern Nigeria, people were idle for eight months of the year because of lack of rainfall, and that we could not develop the economy of the country unless we could give full employment all the year round to our people. We stated that if they wished to develop a flour milling industry they could as well use their resources and influence and money to build up big irrigation schemes in the Sokoto and Katsina areas, which are ideal for the purpose, and where people even now still grow some wheat for local consumption.

The Northern Region Government has taken the matter so seriously, Sir, that plans are now afoot for floating enterprises to the tune of £½ million in the Sokoto area and £½ million in the Katsina area. During my recent visit to these places I saw European technicians and irrigation engineers working on the sites in order to bring wheat growing on a massive scale. (*Hear, hear*). Now, Sir, what would one do if one could grow a lot of wheat but had no mills to process it? It was for this reason that we thought it fit to establish a flour milling industry before the growing of wheat goes into full production. If we did not do that we would have to depend on imported wheat for feeding the mill.

Mr Chairman, the point was made about developing our meat market. I must say, Sir, that the U.A.C. who run the Kingsway Stores and others who run a cold storage have not been helpful in this regard. Instead of bringing meat down here from the North to sell in their stores, they are interested in protecting their own interests by importing meat from abroad to sell in Lagos, in Ibadan and even in Kano! I find this position intolerable; we have ten million heads of cattle in Nigeria and yet we have to import meat from elsewhere. For this reason we must have a ranching system; we must have a shearing system; and what we really need will be groundnut cakes, cotton seed cakes, palm kernel cakes for feeding our own cattle, and we shall not only supply our needs here but we will also be able to export meat from Nigeria. (*Applause*).

Sir, I am in sympathy with the point made by Chief Awolowo when he spoke of monopolies. I think the House would be glad to know that

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the Prime Minister has appointed me Chairman of a Committee which will look into monopolistic corabines. Now, Sir—(Interruptions).

The Chairman : I do not want to mention names, but it seems to me that Chief Rosiji is asking for special measures by persistently interrupting the Minister.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : Thank you, Mr Chairman. I can very well understand why Chief Rosiji is very uneasy in his seat. On his recent visit to America he must have briefed to make conditions impossible here in order to serve the interests of his new masters. In fact, Sir, Chief Rosiji is no longer even a lawyer; he is now a broker! (Laughter).

Now, quite seriously, Sir, the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company and its activities fall short of my expectation. They often cause me a great deal of embarrassment because they insist on operating with old methods in spite of the fact that world condition change from day to day. Unfortunately, Sir, I have no constitutional power to sack them. I have written letters to the Regional Governments, the East, the West and the North, informing them that the matter is now so serious that they should co-operate with me to bring the matter to the National Economic Council where we can do something about it. (Hear, hear). I have never known of a public company, operating with public funds and yet is not responsible to anybody.

An hon. Member : It is terrible!

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : It is indeed terrible! Quite sincerely I do not know whether the company really protects Nigeria's interests. But whose fault is it? If I may say so, Sir, at the *ad hoc* conference of the Nigerian Constitutional Conference, the arch regionalist, the master tribalist—(Laughter). But, jokes apart, Sir, it was a pity that at that time the most important people in the country were all in the Regions and they put regional interests above federal interests, and so the Marketing Company was the creation of those who thought that, by relinquishing power they might—

Chief Awolowo : On a point of explanation, Sir, if the Minister of Commerce and Industry repeats that statement I will produce

before the House the minutes of the Constitutional Conference of 1958 where the Action Group submitted a memorandum for the liquidation of the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company and requested its reorganisation.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : Mr Chairman, I shall be very glad if the Chief will produce the minutes; but let us forget the past. Let us strengthen the present and build our future. I must task the powers concerned to help us reorganise this Company. It is not Sir Odumegwu Ojukwu who controls the Marketing Company; it is Mr Bloomfield from London. It was precisely to stop such a ridiculous situation that we scrapped the old Marketing Board and transferred the headquarters to Nigeria; but yet in Nigeria they still control the whole process. They do not produce anything and, Sir, they never even report their activities to the Minister, not even their losses or their profits!

Recently, Sir, I had occasion to address the African Chamber of Commerce in my office, with my Permanent Secretary as secretary. I told them that as African businessmen they could profit by pressing their various Governments and leading politicians to realise that if it is good for the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company and the Regional Boards to buy our produce, there was no reason why they should not in turn help Nigerian businessmen by buying merchandise and passing over to them. After all they buy our produce and nobody complains, and they sell this produce without any control from us. What is there to stop them using the same money to build up Nigerian businessmen so that they can set up anti-monopoly businesses?

I gave that advice, Sir, but, as usual, people talked and never followed it up.

There is one point I would like to stress. There was a time when I called my senior officials and told them to inform all expatriate firms that I did not want them to interfere in our political activities by bribery of one kind or other. And what was this bribery? It consisted of giving directorships to relatives and wives—

Several hon. Members : Really!

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : Oh yes. I said that this would not help Nigeria and it would not give a favourable impression of their own character. Now, what this journal has done is exactly what I

thought. The House may wish to know that in my own office someone was reported to have said: "They have given the Southern Star Shipping Company the proposed factory to build. We are going to smash it; we have the influence." I shall not mention his name, but somebody was honest enough to come and report the matter to me. Fortunately, the officer has gone and I will not go further than that.

Now, Sir, it is sinful for any business worth its name to write a thing like this. As Chief Awolowo did not quote the article in full, I will leave it in my office to read—

Chief Awolowo : Oh no; I would like to have it back.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : I almost forgot. In fact, Sir, if the Leader of the Opposition were to leave it with me they would sue him, because it is stated in the publication: "Reproduction in whole or in part not permitted. Copyright 1960..." *et cetera*. I am willing to protect him! (*Laughter.*)

But coming back to the point, Sir, how many pioneer certificates have we given to American and British interests? Several; and nobody has complained. As soon as a pioneer certificate is given to any company or enterprise other than those in the combine or trust, then you hear this sort of thing being published. May I categorically state one thing, and that is that this new company has no connection with the interests of C.P. Leventis; and worse still, the company and C.P. Leventis are quarrelling because the new company has drawn away a large number of architects and engineers from the Leventis organisation. In fact they had to approach me on this question.

I know, Sir, that Chief Awolowo believed the rubbish in the publication because he did not know these facts. Indeed this sort of thing is disgraceful. May I assure the Leader of the Opposition that there is no official in my Ministry, none whatsoever, black or white, with a single share in that company. Behold a people who are not sport enough to lose! If they were to win, it would be all right. They applied and asked for all sorts of concessions. Had we given them the certificate, there would have been no trouble; but because they lost they went away and wrote all this scandal.

In fact, Sir, the conditions which they wanted to impose on us were worse than the conditions which we got from this new company. (*Hear, hear.*) What type of people are they?

Believe me, Sir, corruption may be rampant in any other place, but not in Nigeria. After all, we know about Chang Kai Chek and we know of Laos; we also know of other countries, and we know who are behind all those centres of useless corruption. (*Applause.*)

Now, Sir, Chief Awolowo mentioned another important point—(*Interruptions.*)

The Chairman : Order; really I cannot tolerate these voluminous interruptions.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : I refer, Sir, to the statement of the Leader of the Opposition that we were out to protect an industry which is not Nigerian-owned. In fact the conditions stipulated by the National Economic Council which comprised all the Governments was this—that the business is of a monopolistic nature and, therefore, that all the Governments should participate. Also, in order to ensure that they do not do us in, the Governments should take up as much as 49 *per cent* of the shares and that when the business is progressing we can buy them out if we wish to. We should make sure that it is working properly and that to start with we should buy shares to the tune of 49 *per cent*.

A letter has been addressed to the Western, Eastern and Northern Regional Governments and the Production Development Boards asking for their participation; and a letter was also addressed to the Federal Government asking what shares they would be prepared to take. Under these circumstances, is it correct to say that we are protecting other interests? We have gone to the extent of stipulating that no fiscal incentive should be given to any company unless they are prepared to accept active Nigerian participation. (*Applause.*)

Quite honestly, I do not feel aggrieved that people should express their views because the only way for Nigeria to progress and be prosperous is for us to be brave enough to own our mistakes. (*Hear, hear.*) People who are not prepared to make mistakes can never go forward. I would rather be accused of anything but to be lax and lazy and a dead weight. (*Applause.*) In view of the suggestions made, I can assure the House that my officials will study the *Hansard* carefully. Sir, I

[MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY] sincerely think the Chief and other hon. Members for their valuable suggestions. I wish that if they have any doubts let them come to my office to know the facts in order that we may not dishonour our country by repetition of things which are deliberately planted on us.

As for this pamphlet, I do not know whether it will appear in the *Hansard*, but there are many constitutional and international lawyers around: Chief Awolowo may be sued very soon. Fortunately, he cannot be sued because he is covered by Parliamentary privilege. This is a question for the miller. Have you any connection with the Flour industry at all, Sir?

Sir, I beg to support. (*Hear, hear*).

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I think—

The Chairman: Before the Chief speaks, I would like to remind hon. Members that speeches if they are made too long tend to make the distribution of time on the various Heads rather awkward.

Chief Okunowo: I should be grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to make my contribution on the vote for the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. I am sure that all right thinking Nigerians will be grateful to the Leader of the Opposition and also to the Minister of Commerce and Industry for the revelation made this morning and the explanation from the Government which was given by the Minister of Commerce and Industry. In view of the explanation given by the Minister of Commerce and Industry, I do not think I am going to worry my head or to say anything further on the question of the granting of the flour milling industry licence. Anyone who has had something to do with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry will readily agree that the hon. Zanna Dipcharima is the right man in the right place. (*Hear, hear*). I have had a lot of dealings with him. He is courageous, he is bold, he is honest, even anything about him is good. (*Hear, hear*).

But, we would have thought probably before the Leader of Opposition came out with his statement this morning, if he had said something about this flour mill there might not

have been all this explanation. He has always said something for which I think we must congratulate him about the use (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order, order.

Chief Okunowo: Now, Sir, in every fold there is always a black sheep. The question of this flour mill is an issue that is stinking in this country and I think the House should be satisfied with the explanation of the Minister of Commerce and Industry. When we were preparing for independence the whole country was looking forward to prosperity and happiness.

It is the common saying in this country that when you see two brothers entering a room and they come out laughing they must have been deceiving themselves in the majority of cases. We are not here to deceive ourselves. We are here to face facts. There are some anomalies which our hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry inherited in his Ministry and, I think this is an occasion when we should come out with it and tell him in order to enable him to apply the necessary remedy. Take for instance the retail trade in this country. If you go along the old Victoria Street you find our own people, Nigerians sitting down just at the entrance to Syrians' shops. The Syrian is selling by yards in his shop and the Nigerians too are selling by yards. The question of retail trade is a case which I think the Government of this country should tackle with all seriousness.

I went to the North only a few weeks ago. I was in a shop when somebody came to buy a bottle of whisky. The whisky was not sold to him. He was told that they were no more engaging themselves in retail trade. If there is no retail trade among aliens in the Northern Region why should it continue in Lagos? There is no Okunowo Brothers in London, no Okunowo Brothers in Paris, no Johnson Brothers, no Odulana Brothers in Lebanon. For goodness sake, I think the time has come for our Government to encourage the small business man to be able to reap the benefit of his country. It seems to me that all the benefit derived from trade in this country goes to the expatriate, mostly Syrians and the Lebanese. But this is not what we were clamouring for when we were asking for in-

dependence. We asked for independence in order to be able to help Nigerians to be able to make money in their own way but all the prosperity of this country now goes to the Syrians, Indians and so on. Somebody has just made reference to jute bags. How many sons of Nigeria have we got in India? I think that our Government should be able to stamp out this evil once and for all.

The other point I would like to make is about the Exhibition Centre at Victoria Island. I think that the land there is too valuable to be used as an exhibition centre. I think the Government should look for another area, another land bigger than that. I was in Belgium; the Exhibition Centre was not in the heart of Belgium. The Government should be able to find more valuable use for that area.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : The site is for the new Parliament Buildings.

Chief Okunowo : Thank you very much. It is common knowledge that Nigeria is a great consumer of stockfish. I think the time has also come for the Government to provide this country with a refrigerator in which we can keep our stockfish to check the loss that our traders have at the moment; because stockfish is a perishable commodity. It cannot stay for more than two or three weeks after the day of landing and, people when they do not get good market, have to sell them at a loss. I think the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Commerce and Industry should be able to think of the way to provide this country with a refrigerator to be able to keep our fish. I think the country will be very, very grateful to their Ministries.

During my speech on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, I made reference to the deficit in our trade. £50 million is a huge sum of money. Last year, we had the same experience, the year before the same thing. When we were under Colonial rule our trade was on the credit side. Now, the imperialists will be looking at the figures and saying—Oh! When we were there it was not like this. Now it is in the hands of Nigerians. I think we must do something and put our trade in a very good position.

Sir, I now come to the importation of goods from Japan. It might not be known to everybody. We know our good customers for quality. If you want quality go to Great Britain, or Germany or Italy but not to Japan. If you buy any goods from Japan especially the textiles look at the quality. If you wash them you will find that the next day they are bad. We want value for our money. These people are just dumping their goods in this country. If the Government of this country is able to protect our exports, they should be able to protect our imports. They should be able to give support to Nigerian businessmen. Give them banking facilities, it is then that you will be able to know those who are reliable. It is a big job to be done but I think once we set on it we shall be able to make a success of it. I know that our Prime Minister is somebody with a big heart and when he says he is going to do a thing, he will get it done. So, I am appealing to the Prime Minister on behalf of the businessmen of this country. Our business with Japan should be considerably reduced. Too much of a thing is good for nothing. Why should we continue to trade with them? I know the Minister of Finance will say that they are paying customs duties. The time will come when we will not get anything at all if we continue like that. We, therefore, appeal to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to see that a stop is put to this country's importation of goods from Japan.

Before I finish, Sir, I would like again to call the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to the revenue that this country is losing by refusing to allow French goods to come to this country. (*Prolonged laughter*). I would like to support...

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide : Point of order, Mr Chairman. On a point of information, Chief Okunowo is a Director of the C.F.A.O.

Chief Okunowo : My hon. Friend is not in a position to substantiate his statement. Well, I think I am going to leave this item until we get to Foreign Affairs.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support, and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

Alhaji Kabiru Bayero (Kano): Sir, it is a well known fact that Nigeria is ripe for development, and that this Government as well as the Regional governments, is most anxious that industrialisation should proceed as rapidly as possible. But how to go about it is the question.

For the moment we are unable to accomplish all that we wish alone, and are compelled to encourage foreign capital to come here. This is realistic and wise, and our Ministers are to be congratulated on the efforts they have made to attract overseas investors to Nigeria. It is the masses of our peoples who will benefit most, and this is far more important than any false pride or slavish adherence to ultra-nationalistic policies.

Having accepted the principle of foreign investment we should now do everything possible to encourage and extend this investment. There are various ways of going about this, but to-day I will content myself with only one or two of them.

Firstly, any prospective investor must be confident that there will be stability, political stability, in the country, with a strong Government. I think we have already demonstrated to the world that Nigeria is different from many other countries which have acquired independence in modern times. In Africa, too, we hold pride of place on account of the democratic nature of our Government and the importance we place on the liberty of the individual, not to mention the freedom of the Press. It is essential that we safeguard these rights, and continue to reassure the outside world that here at least the future is safe.

Having assured himself that his money is safe, the second thing to which any investor foreign or indigenous, may well look for, is the ease with which he will be able to set up his industry. This Government has been to considerable pains to pass legislation designed to help prospective industrialists. We have had Pioneer Ordinances, Protective Tariffs and Industrial Reliefs (Duty Refunds)—but to what extent have they succeeded? How many Pioneer Certificates have been granted since the Ordinance was first passed nine years ago? To what extent has industry benefited from duty refunds, and how many industries are protected by tariffs?

The success of these measures designed to help industry should be judged by the number of facilities granted. I am not suggesting that they should be granted indiscriminately, but they are obviously desirable otherwise the legislation would not have been passed in the first instance, and the will of the House should not be allowed to be frustrated because of unnecessary delays or lack of urgency in the working of the bureaucratic machinery. Time is against us, and the moment is right for an adventurous outlook. We must seek to assist the rapid establishment of industry, and ways and means of granting facilities rather than excuses for not granting them.

The Chairman: Order, order. I do hope the Committee will allow me to get this Head off.

Question, that Sub-Head 1 be reduced by £10, put and negatived.

Question, That £503,120 for Head 24—Ministry of Commerce and Industry—stand pass of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 25—MARKETING AND EXPORTS

Question proposed, that £505,550 for Head 25—Marketing and Export—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide: Mr Chairman, Sir, I will seize this opportunity of talking once more on a point raised earlier in this debate on the question of the Retail Trade. I think it is a very very important matter into which the Government should have a very early look. It appear to be that virtually this country is in the hands of the U.A.C. and when we talk of the U.A.C. we mean U.A.C. as such, G.B. Ollivant, Gottschalk, London and Kano, Nigerian Brewery—all these are just subsidiary to the U.A.C.

Now, the U.A.C. sell sugar, in retail trade, it sells potash, biscuit, paper, fish, even guguru. I have not heard of any other country in the world where the retail trade of that nation is virtually and totally in the hands of the aliens. I think this position is intolerable and it is no use telling us, words, words, and words. The time has arrived when Government should take firm and quick action. The position in this country is this: these foreign firms control the wholesale trade, and also the retail trade. You have a walk to any of the villages in Ibadan,

Ijebu, and you will see the U.A.C. selling soap for sixpence, and they even sell guguru for sixpence. They sell biscuits. Now what do we want our woman to sell? What do we want our young men and women to sell when they are left with nothing. The result is that our own men and women, our daughters and sons are priced out of the market.

With the expert knowledge of these foreign companies, with their finances, and with their superior system to sell we find that our men are dropped completely from the field.

Now, if the Minister of Commerce and Industry will take steps to see that these companies restrict their activities to wholesale trade and allow the indigenes of this country to deal in retail, it will go a long way to help the commerce of this country. One of the reasons why there is trouble in Kenya is because Europeans from other countries dealt in all the wholesale trade, and the Indians and other people from the Middle East dealt in retail trade, with the result that the people at the lowest rung of the ladder, the natives, had nothing at all left for them. They became hewers of wood and drawers of water. And thus they made them unable to sell their goods. Without our own men, these people just cannot sell their goods. I think, it is time the Minister of Commerce and Industry put down his foot.

The argument of some officials is that these people sell their goods, they make profits, they employ our people, and they pay tax. That is arrant nonsense. The most fraudulent people I have ever met are some of these foreign companies. They are very very fraudulent. They juggle with the accounts; you never know what their profits are, you never know what the Directors' salaries are, sometimes the allowances are not commensurate with the salaries; so that even where you tax them, you do not tax them on the real profits but on the mumbled and juggled accounts which they present before you. I, therefore, submit Sir, that the time has come when the Government should look into the question of retail trade. We should be firm; we should not allow them to deceive us by sweet words.

Sir, let us look into the question of the sale of cars in this country. Why is it that it is only the M. & K. who should sell *Volkswagen* and no other firm; why is it that it is only C.F.A.O. who should sell Morris cars; why is it that it is only U.A.C. who should sell Chevrolet, and why is it that it is only U.T.C. who should sell Opel Capitan? The result of this is that those of us who own cars are held to ransom. There is nothing we can do about it, we are helpless. The same thing applies to other motor firms. Not only that, Sir, these people dictated the terms; if you want to buy spare parts and these people say the parts will cost you £12, you cannot insist; you have to buy them because you know you cannot get the spare parts elsewhere. You will agree that if you do not accept their terms, you just do not use your car again.

This position, Sir, is intolerable. We should not allow ourselves to be held to ransom by these foreign combines on the pretext of helping to develop our country. There are other under developed countries like India and China. In India, at a certain stage the Government and the people made sacrifices. Truly, they suffered but it was only for a time. If we too are going to suffer for some time, by all means let us suffer now so that our children and grand-children, and even the next generation will benefit rather than have momentary gain and suffer for a longer period.

And this brings me, Sir, to the question of pioneer industry. I think that the methods of granting licences at present is not in the interest of this country. Licences are being given on the pretext that these capitalists are being attracted to this country; but what effect has it got on the taxation of this country?

The Chairman : Order. We have passed the Head for industries!

Mr Akinjide : Sir, I beg to support.

Question, That £505,550 for Head 25,—Marketing and Exports—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 26.—MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Question proposed, That £5,983,540 for Head 26—Ministry of Communications—stand part of the Schedule.

The Minister of Communications (Hon. Olu Akinfosile) : Mr Chairman, Sir, when a year ago I was privileged to address this House for the first time as Minister of Communications I then sought to highlight the problems which, in particular, faced the Posts and Telegraphs Division of my Ministry. It has increased in magnitude since then, particularly as a result of the exodus of expatriate technical staff as indicated by my hon. Friend the Minister of Establishments in his speech to this House a few days ago. However, before going into great consideration of these problems, I should like to refer to the major achievements of this country in the field of Posts and Telegraphs during the past year.

By far our most impressive success during the year has been the inauguration, during the Independence celebrations, of the subscriber trunk dialling system between Lagos and Ibadan. This development has revolutionised telephone communication between Lagos and Ibadan—the largest African township south of the Sahara—and comments which I have received from distinguished citizens of both cities, which include the Leader of the Opposition, indicate that the service has given enormous satisfaction, and contributed in a large measure to the development of trade and, of course, to Posts and Telegraphs' revenue. We have also brought into service in the course of the year perhaps the largest and most impressive post office in this part of the continent—the General Post Office on the Marina, Lagos. I am sure that it represents one of the sources of pride of this country. I had the pleasant function of opening, during this period, a number of major automatic exchanges such as those at Kaduna, Kano, Enugu and Ibadan. The Oshogbo automatic exchange was also brought into service; a number of minor exchanges, and a total of nine call offices were inaugurated to serve the needs of rural areas of the country.

In the Northern Region, eight postal buildings were brought into service. This includes rural post offices and staff and office quarters. In Kaduna and Makurdi, magnificent modern post offices, specially designed, which I hope will adorn most of our first and second class townships in the future, were brought into service. In the Eastern Region, nine post offices and staff quarters were opened. Four new post offices and quarters were brought into use in the Western Region.

My hon. Friend the Minister of Finance made reference in his Budget speech to the increase in the revenue of the Posts and Telegraphs Division of my Ministry. This is an indication of the benefits that are accruing from the massive development projects in this field since 1955, and the more this programme nears completion, the greater will be the increase in Posts and Telegraphs' revenue.

All these achievements have come about despite the tremendous problem of staff shortage which has faced my Ministry during the year under review. By the end of June this year the Engineering staff of the Posts and Telegraphs will be reduced to about one-third of its normal strength as a result of expatriate officers from the United Kingdom retiring either at the end of their contract periods or because they have taken advantage of the lump sum compensation which came into operation on the first October, 1960.

There is in the world to-day, a tremendous shortage of skilled men, and in particular, of communication technologists. Unfortunately, it appears that when we embarked upon large-scale expansion which is now coming to an end, we did not also embark upon a massive training programme in time to provide trained Nigerian technologists for the maintenance of the vast equipment we were installing.

Therefore, this country is now paying a sum of almost half a million pounds annually for the maintenance of telecommunications and exchange installations under contract by United Kingdom manufacturers.

I informed you last year that I should do all I could to bring these contracts to an end in 1962 and 1964, when they are due to expire, I am happy to report that, since then, with the co-operation of the contractors, the Ministry has almost virtually doubled the number of Nigerians in training in order to carry out this pledge. In addition, one of the contractor firms—Messrs Marconi Limited—has undertaken to carry out maintenance of additional installations without any additional cost. Marconi have, as a result of conversations during my visit to the United Kingdom last month, sent to this country one of their most senior officials to review the personnel of the maintenance service with a view to reducing the cost to the country.

I should like to place on record the fact that Marconi have shown, since the agreement was signed in 1955, considerable anxiety over our training programme, and the fact that there has not been produced, after five years, a sufficient number of trained Nigerians, is in no way their fault. Had the Posts and Telegraphs shown the necessary grasp and anxiety at the beginning over this problem, the country would not to-day have been involved in this enormous cost which could have been used for much needed additional installations.

There is no doubt that the longer term answer to our staffing problems in P. and T. is the training of Nigerian personnel. Much is being done to this end, and, as I have indicated, we are beginning to see encouraging results in the output of trained technical personnel. However, until our training programmes bear fruit, we must of necessity continue to rely to some extent upon overseas personnel. I must emphasise to this House that this is essentially a temporary expedient. I am wholly dedicated to the principles of Nigerianisation, but we must take a realistic and practical view in this matter.

I have referred briefly to the wastage of expatriate personnel. This is now posing a serious problem for my Ministry, and is placing considerable strain upon the organisation. During the next few months, we shall have acute difficulty in maintaining the standard of our services and of fulfilling our development commitments, unless something is done to find replacement staff. It was my concern over this problem that induced me to undertake an extensive tour during February and March of this year, during which I visited the United Kingdom, Holland, Western Germany, Switzerland, Israel and Denmark.

My intention, Sir, during this tour was to ascertain precisely to what extent we might expect to rely upon the Governments of these countries for assistance in the provision of telecommunications staff. I spoke of our problems in the Ministry. I sought to know what assistance we could expect. I was provided with an opportunity of getting to know those responsible for postal and telecommunications administrations in the various countries, of learning something of their problems and their achievements. I saw their installations and a few manufacturing houses.

We have achieved so far, to a large extent, much development and modernisation of our postal and telecommunications systems, but I came out of these countries without any doubt whatsoever that our telephony equipment could be more modern than that now being installed, and that our postal services still require introduction of newer ideas. I was much gratified to find a very warm interest in our country, and a willingness to provide co-operation and assistance. Each of these countries have opened their doors to our trainees for further and intensive practical training if we can only spare them. As a result of this tour, I feel confident that I can rely on the good-will of these countries to ensure that the pace of Nigeria's progress is not retarded owing to a lack of expertise, in this vital enterprise.

In addition to training facilities for a large number of men, these countries also offered experts as advisers and planners and to meet most of the costs under their Technical Assistance Schemes. I also received generous offers of assistance to recruit much needed staff, and in planning from the International Telecommunications Union and the World Meteorological Organisation.

Hon. Members can rely upon me to make judicious use of the contacts I have made, during the forthcoming months, and I am now confident that I shall be able to tackle successfully the problems confronting my Ministry during the coming year.

I should like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to all the Governments, business houses and individuals in all these countries who were hosts to me and the members of my staff for their generosity, and for the most impressive respect for Nigeria which was demonstrated on every occasion. They all showed consuming desire to read and hear more about our endeavours for our development at home, and about our views and contributions to the solution of the world's problems. I assured them, and I have no doubt that they believed me, that Nigeria is dedicated to the task of abolishing phenomena likely to cause friction between peoples, and helping to end existing misunderstanding wherever they may be between countries, because it is only in a peaceful world that

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developing nations can rapidly advance and utilise the accumulation of human knowledge for the happiness of the millions. (*Hear, hear*).

I have made a passing reference to the question of Nigerianisation, but the rate of progress in this direction in the Ministry during the past year deserves more than this. In the Posts and Telegraphs Division, Nigerians are virtually now in control in the Establishment and Investigation branches. A Nigerian has acted for the last two months as Engineer-in-Chief, and I expect that by the end of this year, the posts of Controller of Posts, Engineer-in-Chief, and Assistant Engineer-in-Chief grades will be manned by Nigerian Officers of the Ministry and the expatriate Officers in these grades will work as advisers. (*Applause*).

Mr Chairman, it is not unlikely that even the post of Director-General of the Ministry of Communications, which has been approved in principle by Government as the first step in the reorganisation of the Ministry, may be held by a Nigerian.

The difficulties, Sir, in respect of Nigerianisation which were referred to in connection with the Meteorological Division of the Ministry last year, still persist, although a Nigerian is now the Deputy Director of the Division.

Now, as to the future, hon. Members will know that the present development programme will end by the 31st of March, 1962. The task facing the Posts and Telegraphs Division by that time will be to consolidate the expansion carried out between 1955 and 1962. Although we have a modern telecommunications network in the country, it is still inadequate when we consider the major development of industrial programmes that the country is now facing. The foundation on which to build any other system for the expansion of our telecommunications depends on this consolidation.

It might not be known that the Posts and Telegraphs Division is still operating services for other Government Ministries, such as services for Civil Aviation at all the main airports in Nigeria; Police communications, and the Naval Forces communications. These services are provided without extra charge by the Ministry.

It may be asked why these services should be carried out by the Posts and Telegraphs. I am not in any doubt, as a result of my recent tour, that this is the case in almost every country, particularly those I visited. The scale of the services required by these other departments is such that they can, and, in fact, must be maintained by the Posts and Telegraphs, particularly for reasons of security. Communications facilities for the Police Force cannot be handed to maintenance contractors.

The House is aware that Government intends to extend the international telecommunications services of this country, and the House is also aware that Messrs Cable and Wireless have licences for this purpose—which expire in 1962, and were in 1959 granted renewals of them for a period of fifteen years commencing from January 1963. The Cable and Wireless is a private operating company, and I am aware that feeling exists in the country that it is not right for a private company to control for such a long period after independence the external communications of a sovereign state.

Several hon. Members : Sure, sure.

The Minister of Communications : I also know, as a result of my tour, that external communications contribute a very large proportion of the revenue of the country's Posts and Telegraphs Administration. It is, therefore, necessary that we should, in the near future, take steps to review the relationship between my Ministry and Cable and Wireless Limited. (*Hear, hear*).

Another important commitment which falls on my Ministry as a result of independence is the establishment of telecommunications services between the country and its foreign missions. We appreciate that, for the purpose of security for this service, a foreign operating agency ought not to be used.

Hon. Members are aware of the existence of television services both in the Western and the Eastern Regions, and of the intention of the Federal Government to set up a television service which will reach the entire Federation, and also to build very soon a powerful external broadcasting system which will relay the ideas and objectives of our country to the world. My Ministry having charge of matters

concerning communications is an authority on all kinds of telecommunications for the entire country, and has responsibility to meet all the requirements for channels for various purposes, co-ordinating information, and ensuring that all systems connected with broadcasting and television comply with the rules of the International Telecommunications Union.

Besides, there exists in the country a grave shortage of indigenous telecommunication engineers and technologists, and it is therefore of the utmost importance that there should be co-ordinated effort in the technical aspects of these matters in Nigeria, and that optimum use should be made of the very limited trained men we have at present in this field. Unless my Ministry gives an effective lead, there is likely to arise confusion and conflict in the field of telecommunications and broadcasting organisation in the country.

On the completion of the present development programme, my Ministry will embark on a new five-year development programme. The emphasis of the next development programme will be on providing adequate trunk facilities for the whole country, and a sufficient number of telephones to satisfy requirements of the industrial development of the Federation. It is my wish that we should extend, in the next phase, subscriber trunk dialing facilities between the important towns of the Federation. (*Applause*). This would necessitate the building of trunk exchanges. Plans will also be made for the expansion of the international Telex system. Telex exchanges will also have to be built to enable subscribers to have direct communication from their offices to the important towns in Nigeria and also to Europe and America. (*Hear, hear*).

Now the Ministry is faced with the immediate provision of additional telephones in the Lagos, Port Harcourt and Kano areas, as a result of unanticipated development projects which have taken place in these centres in the past three years. Unlike the slow start of the training scheme to meet the manpower needs of the existing development programme, arrangements will be made to commence the training of the staff required to carry out the maintenance commitments involved in the new development programme without delay.

Although at present Nigerian staff are not adequate, as I have said, to man all our services, I have every confidence that those we have will, if need be, put in all the extra effort needed to be able to maintain the services provided for the public. I am convinced that Nigerian engineers have the necessary ability now to carry out their duties to the country. (*Hear, hear*).

Up to the present, the Posts and Telegraphs Division relies wholly on the Treasury for development capital, as well as for its recurrent expenses. I have found during my recent tour, that in many countries the Posts and Telegraphs is not only self-supporting but also raises its own development capital. It also makes a very substantial contribution to the revenue of Government. It is my hope that, as a result of the reorganisation envisaged, it will be possible later for the Posts and Telegraphs to acquire such a degree of independence of normal Governmental control and machinery as will enable it to run as a commercial enterprise. (*Applause*).

It cannot be otherwise when it is realised that it has a total turnover of approaching one hundred million pounds per year. When this stage is reached it will be possible to have such a control of staff which will enable the administration to remove waste and inefficiency, and also to remove the complaints of rudeness and lack of drive which have so often been levied against some members of the Posts and Telegraphs staff. But by and large the demands on them and the conditions under which they have worked have been borne courageously.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I will continue to take every step to ensure that we continue to function as a body seeking to sell its services to the people with a smile. It is my hope that, in the next few years, people will not have to pester individual officials for our services and that we should be begging them to patronise us. (*Applause*).

The Chairman : I appeal to the Committee to allow a general debate on this Head and then the Question can be put at about 5.15 p.m. I call Mr Umoren.

Mr S. J. Umoren (Uyo North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, may I first say that I have some word of appreciation for the nationalist Minister in charge of this Ministry. I have to congratulate the Minister for his efforts so far in carrying out the Nigerianisation policy in many of the sections of this Ministry. I am happy to hear that there are many Africans now in the Engineering Section who will soon be taking over from their expatriate bosses.

Again, Sir, I note with pleasure that the Controller of Staff and Buildings has retired and it is my earnest hope and desire that, without undue delay, the obvious Nigerian should step into his shoes without any further qualification except that which he has gained by his experience and long service.

I go on to the internal audit of this Ministry. Although the Minister has not mentioned something about this in his speech just now, I feel it is a very desirable aspect of this Ministry. If we turn to the audit report on the Ministry of Communications as is contained on page 11 of the report, we see that the need for the establishment of this internal audit cannot be over-emphasised. The report says—with your permission, Mr Chairman, I read paragraph 75: "Financial provision for the establishment of an internal audit system within this Ministry already exists, but so far it has proved impossible to fill any of the vacant posts. In view of the fact that roughly two-thirds of the total cash losses reported during the year occurred within this Ministry, the importance of filling these posts at the earliest possible opportunity cannot be over-stressed".

I am aware, Sir, that there is a sort of internal audit in the Engineering and certain other sections of this Ministry, but what I am pressing for is that the Minister should see to it that the whole Ministry has its own internal auditing system which, of course, will facilitate the auditing of accounts in this Ministry.

Again, the Government has already started to make arrangements for organisation and methods in Government departments. This is very necessary in the Ministry of Communications because already the Minister has set to work to try to reorganise many of the sections of this Ministry and we do hope that the organisation and methods system will help the Minister to do away with many of the old machines and stocks that we have in that

Ministry and make sure that whatever machinery we use in this Ministry is up to date and modern in order to meet with the changing times and the needs of the changing community.

May I also call the attention of the Minister to the acting officers in this Ministry.

Provision is made for acting allowances. May I point out to the Minister, whether he is aware of this or not, that there are certain anomalies in these acting appointments. I observe that there are the posts of Executive Officer, Higher Executive Officer and Senior Executive Officer. At certain time an Executive Officer is made to act for a Senior Executive Officer. Sometimes, these acting appointments are gazetted and sometimes they are not.

For the sake of efficiency, commonsense dictates that where there is no Higher Executive Officer who can act for a Senior Executive Officer the best thing to do is to make the Executive Officer go up to the post of Higher Executive Officer so that he will be able to act adequately and efficiently for the Senior Executive Officer whom he is under-studying. And when he is acting it is, of course, expected that he will enjoy all the benefits and privileges which accrue to him in the acting capacity. Before anybody is made to act for a senior officer, it is understood that, in due course, he will be able to take over from the senior officer. It is, therefore, a bit depressing and discouraging to some officers who are made to act for senior officers and after some time are brought back to their previous posts and some other persons are made to take over the posts permanently.

The Chairman : I do hope that we have time for these details.

Mr Umoren : We were told that we should not deal in detail with any Head until we come to the Committee Stage, and this is the Committee Stage, Mr Chairman.

Again, Sir, in view of the fact that the Ministry of Communications is a highly specialized and technical Ministry, I feel that with regard to the question of recruitment of labour personnel and other staff this Ministry should be given a free hand. With all due respect to the Minister of Labour, we know

that in the Labour Exchange we have a list of people who are waiting to be employed into the different Ministries. But may I say that very often the wrong people are being employed when there are vacancies in the Ministry of Communications, with the result that it takes a longer time to train them in order to be able to make use of them in this Ministry. I beg to suggest, therefore, that this Ministry should be given a free hand to make its own recruitment centre so that it will be able to recruit the type of people with the proper attitude and inclination for the work in the Ministry.

Sir, I have a word to say about the future planning in this Ministry. Sometimes, when a new area is opened and is to be connected with telephone system people are employed to dig trenches and lay cables to connect these new places. Sometimes these people just lay as many as thirty to sixty cables with the result that after a very short time the area becomes very much more developed than was envisaged and more applications are made for the supply of telephone services and the general excuse of 'not sufficient cables' is given. I want to suggest that whenever a new place is being opened for development and there is need for a supply of telephone system, provision should be made to meet not only the immediate need of the area but also for a period of five to ten years so that whenever there will be a growing need for more services to be supplied to this area there will not be that excuse of 'not sufficient cables'. This has happened on many occasions.

If you refer to some of the publications from this Ministry you will see that we have many people on the waiting list for supply of telephone services in many areas throughout the country. I hope this Ministry will take note of this point.

The hon. Minister of Communications has just informed us of the fact that the country has been blessed with the installation of the subscriber trunk dialling system. May I say that the Minister should ask for more money so as to be able to set up more of this subscriber trunk dialling system in this country. At the moment, I think it is easier for people in Lagos or in other parts of Nigeria to get in touch with Britain and America by telephone than for people in Lagos to get in touch with Aba, Uyo or Calabar. Sometimes, it is absolutely impossible.

Although this has not existed in this Ministry before, it becomes necessary that a section for publicity should be set up in this very important Ministry. We are aware that the Minister of Information is doing quite a great deal to help to publicise the activities of this Ministry but no matter what he tries to do, there are many things on his hands. In any case, he is contemplating reorganising this Ministry in order to be able to set up a printing press and some other things. But I feel that if this particular Ministry has a publicity section of its own it will be able to let the public know precisely what has been done in the Ministry, what the Ministry is for, what the public expects of this Ministry and the services the Ministry expects to give to the public.

Sir, we have been reading of cases of loss, theft and other bad things that happen in this Ministry. May I also suggest that the Minister should consider setting up a legal section in the Ministry so as to deal effectively with all these cases of loss and theft which are rampant there. From the reports we see that much cash, stores and equipment are being stolen all over the country and to wait for the normal procedure of law takes quite a long time. I think this Ministry should be able to deal with all these cases competently if it sets up a legal section. It will not cost the Government much money.

Finally, if these suggestions and the criticisms which other Members will have to make to this Ministry are accepted in the spirit in which they are made, there will certainly be an improvement. I suppose the time will soon come when we hope the Minister will put into effect the very fine suggestions that he has told this House. When these things do happen then the Department of Posts and Telegraphs will cease to be palaver and trouble of peace and tranquillity because where there is so much tranquillity there is no progress and and it will become known as the Department of progress and technology.

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West): Mr Chairman, I have to congratulate the Minister of Communications for the lot he has been able to do. But I have this to say, On the Floor of this House last year I reminded the Minister that at a certain place, Omoku, the

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people by communal effort financed and built a post office. Up till now that post office remains unopened. Mr Chairman, this has been so for almost two years and the people have been hoping against hope. I am just telling the Minister that it is actually good to encourage communal effort. Some areas do not do this sort of thing, but where they do it the Government should come to their aid and encourage them. In fact, I want the Minister to do something about these people and see that this post office is opened.

I thank the Minister of Communications again for the lot he has done in installing telephone services at Ahoada. But that is not enough. These telephone facilities are not extended to private houses and departments. It is not indeed sufficient for business men and important persons staying about a mile away to go to the post office to answer trunk calls. I am of the opinion, Sir, that the Minister should do something as early as possible to see that the extension of the telephones is done both to offices and to private homes. With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma (Hadeija North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the policy of the Ministry of Communications as laid out by the able Minister. The policy as clearly designed and laid out by the Minister leaves no stone unturned and the only thing for us to do is to express words of appreciation and congratulations to the Minister and his Ministry. Without communications there will be no contacts, and, of course, without transport there will be no contacts too. But easy communications by telecommunication system enables us to execute our duties in such a sensitive world as we are in to-day.

Mr Chairman, Sir, while I rise to support the estimates under the Ministry of Communication, I seize this opportunity to congratulate the Government for the success it has made and for the work it has undertaken during the year.

An hon. Member : On point of order, Sir, the hon. Member is speaking from a place away from his seat. I thought that he should speak from the place allocated to him.

The Chairman : I quite agree that he should have been speaking from his place but with the permission of the House, and in view of the position where he was formerly sitting, he should be allowed to speak from there.

Alhaji Gauyamma : Having expressed my appreciation for the well laid out policy of the Minister of Communications, and having praised the Ministry for their efficiency, and also having congratulated the Federal Government, I wish to comment further on the subject of communications facilities. I wish the Federal Government would make it easy for us to communicate with other parts of Africa. By that I mean the installation of international telecommunication system which will link Nigeria with Togoland, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Guinea, and so on. Such countries have direct links with almost all other sovereign countries of the world except Nigeria. During our last tour to West African countries, I can remember a point of this nature was raised at Lome in Togoland. It is easier, as stated, to contact London, New York, and other European countries than to contact us here in Nigeria. There are no means of direct contacts of their chief towns with Lagos or any other principal town in Nigeria.

Mr Chairman, Sir, while I thank the Ministry of Communications for the installation of telecommunication system at Malammaduri in Hadeija Emirate linking Malammaduri with the trunk line system, I still crave for the fulfilment of our requirements. Sir, it is our urgent need that the Minister should visit Gumel, the second chief town in the Northern Region. This would call for a line from Malammaduri linking Hadeija with Gumel. Also, we want to have access to speak to the neighbouring towns on the railway line. When this is done we can speak to Birnuwa, Garin Gabas, Buramusa, Kagarma, Gagarawa and Ringim from Malammaduri. I wish the Minister of Communications could see to these requests and afford the people of the area the facilities as early as possible. I am sure the people will greatly appreciate it.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : Mr Chairman, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. It is gratifying to listen to the Minister of Communications and one is very pleased to hear that there are a lot of improvements which he is

proposing to carry out this year. This is a change and it brings cheers to the Minister of Communications. But I think our present telecommunication system needs a lot of overhauling. One notices that as there is a little rainfall, and I think that anybody who has a telephone in his office or in his house can bear me out, there is a fundamental fault in the telephone system, mostly on Port Harcourt lines. I do not know what is actually responsible for this but I think a team of experts should see to it.

Then there is another fact about the charges which are rather too high. I think something must be done. I know we are very poor and the Ministry needs a lot of money still, but I think the charges are too high. At the end of a quarter if you look at your list you find what I call mysterious charges on calls which you cannot remember at all: trunk calls and even local calls that you cannot recollect having made. You probably made three or four calls but at the end of the quarter you find a bill for about ten calls, calls which you never made.

Last year, Sir, the Minister of Communications said he had about eight centres in mind where he would install telephone communication. This year he has not specifically mentioned any figure although he has said that he would connect most of the important towns in Nigeria. I do not know the degree of importance, the standard of importance, and who is the judge of the degree of importance; perhaps the Minister is the judge of the importance. But I think if he does the allocation on the basis of the old provinces the Minister will find out that particularly the Rivers Province has been the most neglected Province with regard to telephone and postal services. In the whole of the Rivers area there are only two towns in which there are proper telephone installations: in Abonema and Degema only. Those who come from the Rivers will bear me out. There is no telephone communication at Okrika, none at Bonny, none at Buguma and none at Bakana, and these are really big towns.

An hon. Member : What of the one in Bonny?

Mr Briggs : Yes, there is one in Bonny but it is very small and it is limited to the offices. In Ahoada too there is none in any private house. I have just been to Bonny about three weeks ago for a case and I tried to contact Abonema. I could not do it. There was only one telephone station and that was in the Police Station. I am, however, grateful to the Minister for installing telephone system at Abonema Police Station. But that is not the only place. In Buguma there is a large Police Station but there is no telephone communication, and Buguma is miles away from Abonema and Degema. It is very difficult to get in touch with people, either the Police Station at Degema connecting the Police Station at Buguma, or even getting the hospital. If somebody is wounded and is in extreme need of help, he cannot get in touch with anybody either at Abonema or at Degema. So I am asking whether the Minister will see to this.

Even those who live at Port Harcourt will bear me out also. Port Harcourt is regarded as the second port to Lagos in Nigeria and yet telephone communication does not extend to a place called Gborikiri (it means a fishing port). Gborikiri is a new addition to Port Harcourt and it is very gradually being urbanised. If there is (I understand there is no cable laid) telephone communications, it will be of very great advantage to the people who are living there. The Minister, in a private conversation, has given some kind of promise. He has been very good to, I should say, make me a bit hopeful about that, and I hope that the hope that he has given will be realised.

Then there is the question of postal facilities distinct from telephone communication of the Rivers. A place called Odua is about 50 miles by sea from Abonema and Degema, and yet there is no postal facility there. I am not thinking of a large post office at all. Even a skeleton postal agency. If one posts a letter from Abonema to Odua, one would not get it at Odua until about after a week: it goes by dug out canoes. The same thing happens if you send a telegram. Telegrams and letters go at the same time, so that there is no point even in sending a telegram. I am asking the Minister to look into that to install, not a post office as

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such if our resources are not able to meet that, but at least at postal agency in order that letters may get to their destination within the minimum time of three days.

It is gratifying also that the Minister has installed a trunk dialing system between Ibadan and Lagos. It is very, very convenient indeed, but I am hoping that the Minister this year will extend it to the Eastern Region as well, (*hear, hear*) particularly between Port Harcourt and Enugu—Enugu being the capital of the Eastern Region. If it is installed between Port Harcourt and Enugu, it will be of real use to the people.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr P. O. Eleke (Okigwi South East): Mr Chairman, Sir, it has often been said in this House that the people in the rural areas are neglected. It appears that this is true, more especially in the distribution of telecommunication and postal facilities. I say this, Sir, because in my own Division, Okigwi Division, which is one of the largest Divisions in the Eastern Region, there is not much of the Federal Government for which we can boast. Of course, according to the Constitution, the major problems of the rural areas are in the hands of the Regional Governments, but what about the few subjects for which the Federal Government is responsible, such as post office and rural telephone facilities? How many of these are in Okigwi Division?

I humbly ask that the Federal Government should build two more post offices in Okigwi Division—one at Etiti District Council area and the other at Mba-ano. Okigwi is large and extensive, and it is over 49 miles from my home to Okigwi post office. This at once shows the trouble which our people undergo before they can even claim a registered packet.

The second thing is the need for telephone facilities in Mba-ano and Etiti County Offices. This can be extended either from Umuahia or from Okigwi. We are prepared to contribute our quota for this most needed amenity, if need be. We call upon the Federal Government to come to our aid immediately.

Mr Chairman, Sir, why is it that in every postal agency in the rural areas one always finds that one cannot get stamps, postal orders cash or money orders?

An hon. Member : Because it is rural.

Mr Eleke : Of what use are the postal agencies then if these things cannot be had in them, and why not increase the stocks?

Alhaji Saiyadi Ringim (Ringim): Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting the Head, I have only a few remarks to make on the service by this Department: a delicate matter which is really boiling very hard in the minds of the people that I represent.

It appears to me that the Ministry is not thinking much about the Northern Region. We need, in an independent Nigeria, to develop our facilities for communications, especially in the Northern Region. Therefore, I wish to draw the attention of the Minister of Communications to the fact that in previous years, the supply of postal services was done with discrimination and all the facilities were passed to the Western Region. We now hope that individual towns all over Nigeria will be considered accordingly.

Well, there are many towns and places in the Northern Region where facilities for communication are very difficult. Take, for example, Ringim from where I come, where there are about 35,000 taxpayers and 90 per cent of them are traders, but there is not a single telephone in the area. That is a great pity. Nigeria is growing rapidly educationally. We have more schools and we are building new roads and we have adult education classes. These people would like to put into practice what they are taught about communications.

Children in the schools would like to post letters and send telegrams. The teachers in rural areas teaching their children about communications, and the children, would like to know what a post office is. If they cannot get a post office, how can they put into practice what they are being taught? In adult education classes they are being told about communications so that they can write to their friends in far away villages, and they would like to put all these things into practice.

Again, letters take a long time before getting to another town. Sometimes they are lost in transit. If the Minister does not consider improving the communication facilities, it will be very hard for the common man to enjoy our freedom.

Now, Sir, as far as post offices are concerned, we are very much in need of one. Take, for instance, the telegram. A telegram takes three to four days to get to its destination. Therefore I ask the Federal Government and the Minister concerned to wake up and straighten the corners.

Lastly, I wish Ringim people will be considered under this Bill. Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to support.

The Chairman : I think we should give time for the other two Heads. I would like also to remind hon. Members that there are other channels of making known to Government the wishes of your constituencies, apart from a general debate in the House ; that is by filing a Question, by writing to the Minister or by seeing him personally, and hon. Members need not be frustrated if they are not called upon to speak on the various Heads or in this respect.

Question, That £5,983,540 for Head 26—Ministry of Communications—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 27—MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Question proposed, That £49,740 for Head 27—Ministry of Defence—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Obafemi Awolowo (Ijebu Remo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, there are certain anomalies in the Nigerian Army to which I would like to call the attention of the Minister of Defence. The first anomaly consists of the practice of discrimination in the selection of personnel for training. I understand that there is what is known as Final Staff Selection Board and that this Selection Board reserves 50 per cent of all the vacancies for Cadet officers to a certain ethnic group or to a certain Region in the country. I think, Sir, that this is an anti-Nigerian practice. Nigeria is one country and all Nigerians should be admitted into the officer class of the Army on merit and on merit alone, and without discrimination at all as to their Region of origin.

May I say that my information is that discrimination is being practised in favour of those applicants who are of Northern origin.

I am making it clear in order that the Minister may be able to pin-point where this anomaly lies, so that he may take steps to correct the anomaly accordingly.

The second anomaly to which I would like to call the attention of the Minister is the lack of training facilities for those officers who aspire to higher ranks in the Army. I understand that before anyone could be promoted beyond the rank of Captain or Major he must undergo certain training. At the moment the only place where the facilities for training are available is the Staff College at Camberley. I also understand that the number of places offered to Nigeria there is very, very limited indeed. As a result, those who are qualified or aspire to go into the higher ranks are frustrated because there is not enough room for them at the College at Camberley for training.

I understand that an offer has been made by Canada to accept our officers for training but for some mysterious reasons—I have no doubt that presumably one of the reasons is that those at the top do not want accelerated Nigerianisation in the higher ranks of the Army ; but for some mysterious reasons, this offer has not so far been accepted. I hope that the Minister will take steps to investigate this particular allegation and see to it that the places offered by Canada to us for the training of our officers so that they may qualify to enter into the higher ranks and thereby accelerate Nigerianisation of the Army, are accepted immediately.

The third anomaly is this. At the moment, a good number of contract officers are appointed into the Nigerian Army. They serve for 18 months, sometimes for more than that period. But a knowledgeable person has made a calculation for me, Sir, and his calculation amounts to this, that what it costs us to employ one expatriate contract officer for 18 months would be enough to train two Nigerian officers. I think that is a very careless waste which I do not think the Minister of Defence would like to continue to encourage.

The fourth anomaly consists in the total exclusion of Nigerian officers from the Administrative branch of the Army. I understand that there is not a single Nigerian officer in that branch. We are clamouring for the

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complete take-over of the Army. When that happens we want Nigerians who are experienced in Military administration to be in charge at that time. We do not want a Mobutu episode in this country, and I have no doubt that the Minister of Defence will see to it that Nigerians are appointed very quickly into the administrative branch of the Army. The Minister of Defence—if I may say so, with respect—is by nature a pugnacious character and he is always threatening to fight. He should bear it in mind that whenever he does engage in this fight which he threatens so often, he will require a good administrator at the base to get the supply position of the army right.

The fifth anomaly to which I want to point relates to the discriminatory rates of pay in the Army as between the Nigerian officers and the expatriate officers, and I think these discriminatory rates of pay are indeed revolting. I will give just one instance. A Nigerian Major, for instance, is paid £115 per month, but his expatriate counterpart receives £210 a month. May I ask, why? Is it because his face is black or because he is less efficient than his expatriate counterpart? Why? £95 per month more received by an expatriate Major than a Nigerian Major. I say this is revolting and I think the Minister of Defence would be doing a great service to the good name of the country and the prestige of free Nigerians by taking immediate steps for the alteration of this state of affairs. I do not think it is right. It is not done these days, even in the Civil Service. I remember the expatriates and Nigerians in the higher strings of the Civil Service receive the same salary. We do hear of Inducement Allowance. Somebody has called that a bribery. I hope that those who receive Inducement Allowances will stop receiving them. (*Laughter*). (*Some hon. Members: Let them go.*)

They can go. But here you find, when you go to the University College, Ibadan, that expatriates and Nigerians enjoy the same conditions of service and the same salaries. But in the Army you have a Major receiving £95 less than his expatriate counterpart. I understand, Sir, that a Sergeant Major who is in the position of a servant to a Major, where he serves under a Nigerian receives a higher salary than a Nigerian Major. It is revolting,

Sir, and I think it must be corrected very quickly if the Minister of Defence is to have an Army with a high morale. You cannot send an Army of this kind of morale to fight against your political opponents. They would instead turn their bayonets against you.

Then the sixth anomaly, Sir. That is equally revolting. I do not know whether it is contained in the written rules of the Army or whether it is merely a matter of convention, but whilst an expatriate officer can punish and discipline any soldier, no matter what his colour, a Nigerian officer must never punish an expatriate soldier. What is he an officer for? Officer over whom?

I see that some people are writing notes. I hope they will tell the truth to this House and not mislead the Minister because I have got this from authoritative sources and if they challenge what I say I will ask the Minister of Defence to institute an enquiry into these allegations and let the people come forward and give evidence and see whether or not the truth will not be told. An expatriate in our Army can do whatever he likes with all soldiers, Nigerian or expatriate. A Nigerian officer can only limit himself to his own black Nigerian soldiers. Very well, then, let the white chaps leave the army for the black ones.

Then the seventh and the last anomaly to which I would like to call the Minister's attention consists in the poor conditions of service of soldiers as well as their poor salaries. I am sure that the Minister of Defence himself has received copies of these letters. I have received two from our soldiers serving in the Congo expressing great discontent with their conditions of service. Here are the two letters. One of them is said to be addressed to the Minister of Defence. Did I write this one too? I was said to have written the one in the "Business International". (*Laughter*).

This is from the 4th Battalion of the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment and this is from the same source. But these soldiers complain about their conditions of service. They are provided with very, very poor uninhabitable and inhuman barracks.

An hon. Member : Why?

Chief Awolowo : Oh, because they are soldiers! An Army moves on its stomach.

It also moves on its sentiments and feelings and unless these poor people are properly treated, treated like human beings, we will never get the best out of them.

We are voting a large sum of money for the Ministry of Defence and we do not expect this large sum of money to be spent only for the comfort of expatriate officers or soldiers in the Army but also that a good deal of the money should be spent in providing comfort and satisfaction for our own people. And an expatriate soldier is like a mercenary soldier. He works for gain and when the time comes he goes back to his own home. If there were to be a war between this country and another country in Africa, an expatriate soldier would hesitate to risk his life. It is we who know what our freedom means to us and it is our people who will sacrifice and lay down their lives in the cause of preserving that freedom. (*Applause*). Our duty first and foremost is to our own people. We should see to it that good salaries are paid to them, that their conditions of service are improved and that good barracks are built for them.

Those of us throughout Nigeria have proof that our serving soldiers in the Congo are complaining that, even though they have gone there to serve their own country, the conditions provided for them at home are very bad and they hope that the conditions at home will be improved. (*Interruption*).

The Chairman : Order, order.

Chief Awolowo : It is no use asking me why they went all the way to Congo to write a letter and this one is addressed to Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu, Minister of Defence, to myself, to Chief Akintola, to the hon. Akinjide. . . . (*Laughter*). (*Interruption*).

The Chairman : Order, order. It is the turn of Chief Awolowo to speak and not anybody else's.

Chief Awolowo : Mr Chairman, Sir, I have already pointed out seven serious anomalies. Some of them are indeed revolting and I have no doubt that the Minister of Defence who, in public, has always appeared to stand for the welfare and the morale of our Army, will do his very best, quickly, to correct these anomalies.

One or two persons interjected and said that these letters emanated from some Yorubas.

I think this sort of thing ought to be killed and, coming from Ministers I think it is really a disgraceful sort of interjection. I do not know who the writers are. The letters are here. I do not know who the writers are.

The Chairman : I do not think it is worth while pressing over this minor but delicate matter.

Chief Awolowo : The copies of the letters are here. They are not even signed. (*Interruption*). I hope that the Minister of Defence and his advisers will not take these anomalies lightly. Let us remember the experience of Ghana. Ghana sent a battalion or two to the Congo. One of the battalions, or the only battalion, was recalled and disbanded, and the decision of the Ghana Government is never to reform that battalion again. Some of the officers were arrested, and I believe that they are still under trial, and the rest of the soldiers are at large in the country.

I hope that those who are living at home, enjoying themselves in palatial buildings, air conditioned buildings, who have sent their fellowmen to the Congo to suffer privations and hardship, would see to it that when these people do come back satisfactory conditions of service and good salaries are provided for them.

Remember that the Army needs high morale and contentment to enable them to help the Government in providing for the security of this country. (*Prolonged applause*).

The Minister of Defence (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Chairman, Sir, the Leader of the Opposition has alleged that there are certain anomalies existing in the Army, but I do not agree with him. As far as I know there are no anomalies at all.

He said that there is some discrimination there. What he regarded as discrimination was the policy adopted by the Defence Council and approved by the Council of Ministers, and that is, recruitment; into the Army, or into the military school should be done in the following proportions. Fifty from the North, twenty-five from the East' and twenty-five from the West. The idea behind this is to make the Army a fully representative body.

He said that the people should be recruited on merit, and merit alone. Well, that is what

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obtains; now. When soldiers are recruited they are sent; for training, school boys go to the Army School, and it is there that they have opportunity of showing; their ability, before they become soldiers. As far as I know, all soldiers are selected on merit, and merit alone. (*Interruption*).

The Chairman: The hon. Member has barely two minutes.

The Minister of Defence: According to him, Sir, he said the Canadian Government offered us some places, but that they were rejected for reasons he does not know. As far as I know, I have never had any offer from the Canadian Government. We had an offer from the Pakistan Government, and as a result one officer is now serving there. I can assure the hon. Members and the House that I am making enquiries from all the Commonwealth countries to know which country would give more places to us for the training of our Military officers.

He also mentioned contract officers. If we are to train our Army to the standard we want them to be then for the time being, we have to rely upon the British officers to train them. For this purpose contract officers have to be engaged by the Nigerian Government not for any other purpose but to train our Military personnel.

An hon. Member: What about the salary discrimination?

The Minister of Defence: There is no discrimination as far as the Nigerian basic salary is concerned. It is all on the same level. Further inducements are payable for being contract officers and (i) being expatriate officers. You see, they come on their personal salaries because they are seconded from the British Army. Somebody has suggested that we should pay Nigerian soldiers more. At present we pay the Army at the same rate as the Policemen. If you like us to pay the Army at a different rate I shall be very glad to do so.

He also said that Army officers should be put in the administration, so as to enable them to know something about administration. If the hon. Member cares to come to my Ministry tomorrow he will see Nigerian Army officers working there as Administrators.

He also spoke about barracks. I entirely agree with him. Some of the barracks are in an appalling condition. In these Estimates, when we come to the Capital Estimate, he will notice that a sum of nearly £2 million has been voted in the Estimates this year for the improvement of Army barracks.

And it being 5.45 p.m. the Chairman proceeded, pursuant to Order (10th April), to put forthwith the Question already proposed from the Chair.

£49,740 for Head 27—Ministry of Defence—agreed to.

The Chairman then proceeded to put forthwith the Questions necessary to dispose of the Business allotted for this day.

HEAD 28—ROYAL NIGERIAN ARMY

£4,200,930 for Head 28—Royal Nigerian Army—agreed to.

HEAD 29—ROYAL NIGERIAN NAVY

£565,490 for Head 29—Royal Nigerian Navy—agreed to.

Then the Chairman left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress—to sit again tomorrow.

NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Labour (hon. J. M. Johnson): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor-General to move that a Bill entitled "A Bill for an Act to establish a National Provident Fund and to provide for contributions for other matters connected therewith" be now read a second time.

In order to set the minds of hon. Members at rest and to demonstrate that this major piece of social legislation has not been embarked upon without the deepest consideration and the most extensive consultation, I feel it necessary to explain in some detail the work of preparation that has gone into the Bill you have before you.

The concept of the establishment of a National Provident Fund was born three years ago with a view to introducing a scheme of general benefit to workers in Nigeria as

soon as possible after achievement of our independence. (*Hear, hear*). Such a scheme could not be lightly undertaken and that as a first step it was necessary to seek the views of Regional Governments on the matter. During the year 1958-59, preliminary consultations took place and Regional Governments agreed in principle to consideration being given to such a scheme.

Accordingly, a meeting of officials was held on 30th April, 1959. Representatives of the Regional Governments stated that they had studied the working paper prepared by the Federal Ministry of Labour explaining the scheme and that their Governments had no objection in principle but would welcome more information about the financial considerations involved. Amongst other things, they recommended that expert assistance should be invited from outside the country to advise on the proposal to set up a National Provident Fund. This was agreed to by the Federal Government.

Eventually the Federal Government secured the services of two experts: (1) Mr A. O. Zelenka, Head of the Social Security Division of the International Labour Office; and (2) Mr F. B. Matthews, Regional Controller in the United Kingdom Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance. These two experts were in Nigeria together for four weeks in November and December 1959, Mr Zelenka to advise on the kind of scheme that he would suggest for Nigeria, and Mr Matthews to consider the practical aspects of putting such a scheme into force.

Mr Zelenka's report was prepared after consultation with the Official Committee and with representatives of employers and workers and was received by the Government in March 1960, and circulated to Regional Governments in the same Month. The Zelenka Report was approved in principle by the Federal Government on 29th April, 1960, and a request to the United Kingdom Government was made for the further services of Mr F. B. Matthews. His duties were, as Director-Designate of the Fund, to prepare for the introduction of the scheme. He was required to train Nigerians to fill all posts in the Fund including an officer who would eventually take over as Director. (*Applause*).

Mr Matthews was released and came out to Nigeria again on 26th June, 1960. Since then, there have been meetings with Regional Governments, employers' associations and trades union associations, both in Lagos and in the three Regions. At these meetings the comments of interested parties were received on the Zelenka Report, copies of which had previously been distributed for information.

As a result of these detailed consultations, the Government in November 1960, approved the modified proposals together with the feasibility, training and cost factors of introducing the scheme.

In the meantime, a layman's draft of the Bill had been circulated to the Regional Governments on 8th October, 1960, and also to the appropriate departments of Federal Government and their comments were invited. The Bill which we are now considering is the result of the comments received from the very wide consultation that has taken place.

It will be seen from what I have said that ample opportunity has been given over a period of three years for all parties to comment on the proposal. There has been consultation with all the main bodies interested and it is now for us as legislators to get down to the task of putting it into concrete legal form so that the necessary steps can be taken to put it into practice.

General principles. I now pass to the general principles underlying the Bill. Our only social security measures at present are the Workmen's Compensation Scheme; limited provision under the Labour Code for sickness and maternity leave; pensions for public servants, and a small number of private employer Provident Funds and similar schemes. The Bill we are now considering provides for a savings scheme for workers and it is not an insurance scheme. It is important to note this distinction when we consider its provisions.

Most of the workers have no provision for their old age; even in the private schemes that purport to deal with this, they tend naturally to provide only for those workers who stay with the firm a long time, and if a worker leaves the firm before he has served the qualifying period, he generally loses at least part of the benefits. There is, therefore, a

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need for some form of social security protection that will ultimately be extended to all workers and under which a worker will not lose his entitlement merely because he has left the service of a particular employer. In a national scheme, the rights will continue so that when the worker retires, he will receive the cumulative amount due to him from all his employments and not just from the last one. Having established the need for such a scheme, the question that next arises is what kind of scheme? There are three choices here: (1) a National Insurance Scheme; (2) a National Assistance Scheme; (3) a Savings scheme like a national provident fund.

Either a national scheme or a national assistance scheme would involve the country at this stage in unknown expenditure. However desirable such schemes may be in theory, they need to be carefully worked out, if they are not to become severe burdens which a country in our stage of development will be quite unable to bear. Other countries which have endeavoured to go too fast with developing such schemes have found that they only lead the country to the verge of bankruptcy. Any such schemes must therefore be developed out of smaller beginnings and must be developed as the economy develops and not in advance of it.

A further point is that national insurance and assistance schemes require a large reservoir of administrative expertise if they are to be administered successfully and at present this kind of expertise is in very short supply in Nigeria. To embark on a full scheme of national insurance covering all workers would need a staff of about 26,000 all well trained. We could not find more than about 1 per cent of this figure at present when there are such great demands on trained man-power.

All things considered, therefore, the best solution seemed to be the establishment of a National Provident Fund to which employers and workers would contribute; from which workers would get as benefits what had been paid in for them; which would not impose any financial strain on the Government; and which would be the easiest type of scheme to administer.

The Bill itself provides for the coverage of all workers except pensionable officers in the Public Service and similar categories of persons.

Contributions are to be made by both employers and workers of three pence for each complete five shillings of wages. The maximum wage on which the deduction is to be made is £40 per month. Interest will be added to members' accounts (annually or at specified periods). The main benefits to be provided are lump sums representing the amount of the worker's and his employer's contributions plus interest and are payable; (a) when the worker reaches the age of 55 or retires from work, whichever is the later; (b) when the worker becomes a permanent invalid and unable to work; (c) when the worker emigrates with no intention of returning to Nigeria; (d) when the worker has been out of paid work for two years, and (e) to the survivors of a worker in the event of his death before receiving the amount due to him. Provision is made for sickness benefit out of the worker's own contributions to be paid in instalments during periods of inability to work owing to illness, which exceed one month but which do not qualify a worker for invalidity benefit; but the Minister is given power to defer the introduction of sickness benefit until he is satisfied that there is an adequate system of medical certification.

The fund is to be administered by a self-accounting Government Department under the Minister of Labour, but as it will be administering public moneys, general financial control and management will be subject to the Minister of Finance under the Finance (Control and Management) Ordinance, 1958. The accounts of the Fund will also be subject to the usual provisions relating to the audit of public accounts. There will be a small professional Investment Committee of three persons to supervise investments; these will be an officer of the Central Bank; an officer of the Ministry of Finance, and the Director of the Fund. There must be available in Lagos to be called at short notice to consider purchase or sale of, or investment in, stocks that may become available from time to time.

Sitting suspended : 6.0 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 9.03 p.m.

The Minister of Labour: Mr Speaker, continuing my speech, I would like to stress that the Minister of Labour is to be advised on matters connected with the administration of the Funds by an Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of Government, of employers (some of whom will represent Regional Governments as employers) and of workers.

Existing provident funds and similar schemes of employers may continue but may be adjusted to take account of the contributions to the National Provident Fund.

Now, a few words about the timing of the introduction of the scheme. It would be courting disaster if we attempted to introduce the Scheme at once and for everybody. The administration would almost certainly break down. We therefore contemplate introducing it a step at a time but the exact date we can start is dependent on many factors such as the acquisition of suitable buildings and I can assure this hon. House that we are getting very very well ahead on that—the delivery of mechanical accounting machines—we have got all that in the kitty as well, and last but by no means least the recruitment and training of an adequate staff.

As I mentioned earlier on, we are ready, as a matter of fact, we are on the point that we should get along with that. There has been much preparation on this, but it will take time and the earliest date on which we can start is 1st October, 1961. (*Hear, hear*). Provided everything goes according to plan, I propose to take steps under the Act when it is passed, but I am sure it will be passed, to bring it into force on that date for the workers in the employment of Federal Government, Regional Governments, Local Authorities, Native Authorities and public Corporations.

The next step would be three months later to bring it into force for the workers of private employers with 400 or more workers.

After that, we should need a period of experience and consolidation before extending it to the workers of employers with less than 10 workers.

There has been some inspired guess work by various people as to the income of the Fund. They are quite entitled to make any calculations or guesses they care to make. What

they should not do however, is to give the Government as the source of their inspired guesses. What the annual income of the Fund will be in (say) five or ten years' time is purely a matter of speculation and although it might be tempting to speculate upon it Government must resist the temptation and deal merely with present realities. Mr Zelenka estimated, and the Government at present see no reason to disagree with the figure, that by the time the scheme was applied to the workers of employers with 10 or more workers, some 360,000 workers would be brought into it. He estimated that the contribution income in respect of them would amount to £300,000 per month—roughly £3½ million per annum. Of course, these figures may in the result be on the conservative side because they were based on statistics which are now two years old and we all know that there has been considerable industrial expansion in those two years, but they are the best estimate we can make until experience shows what are the actual numbers of workers brought into the scheme. I assure you if at least we are in this estimate, we are on the side of under estimation.

I said earlier that the scheme to be chosen was one which did not impose any financial strain on the Government. When the Fund is established it should be self-supporting, but the Government is of the opinion that it would be unfair to the first contributors to saddle the Fund not only with the current administrative costs from the time those contributors come into the scheme but also with the initial non-capital costs of setting up the scheme. These latter costs have been estimated to amount to £66,500 and in order to give the Fund a good start and as a demonstration of its goodwill to the Fund, the Government has decided to make a grant to the Fund of the non-capital costs to be incurred before the first appointed day in setting it up.

The scheme is a major step in the social advancement of the Country. It will be the first step on the road to social security for the workers and should enable them to feel that provision is really being made for the time when they are no longer able to work.

In the meantime, the investment of the Funds as they accumulate should be one of the means by which further expansion of the economy can take place, thus providing even more opportunities of employment for the

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workers of Nigeria. Well the night is young and hon. Members look so handsome, so I have to stop here.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Usman Sarki): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to give whole-hearted support to this most progressive Bill. On behalf of the entire working population of this country, I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to this Government. (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker: Order, order. It is not good to start with such huge noise.

Mr Mbah: On behalf of the Nigerian workers I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to the Government for this gesture. Records show that for our present purpose, it would suffice to illustrate the origin of the social security movement at the beginning of the early 19th century in Western Europe. In this region, industrialisation had begun and the proletariat had made its appearance.

Here was a large nucleus of factory than completely dependent on the regular payment of wages for their subsistence and, therefore, reduced to privation by a spell of sickness and unemployment.

It is also true, Sir, that there existed in North-western Europe ineffective and poor laws under which destitute persons could obtain relief. For the period up to about 1880, three methods had been devised and applied in order to protect the urban labouring class from destitution. That is, more savings, employers' liabilities and various forms of their private income.

But what have we here in Nigeria? The Minister of Labour, in the course of his speech, has referred to the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, which provides that in the event of employment accident the employer is liable to provide medical care, pay compensation if

the accident results in incapacity involving loss of earnings or in death. Some protection in case of sickness is provided by the Labour Code.

The same Labour Code made provision for maternity benefits. Civil servants in pensionable employment are covered by the Pension Ordinance of 1951. Others may come under gratuity or allowance fixed arbitrarily in some cases by the employers. In other concerns, it is either Provident Fund, Superannuation Scheme or something else. But what have we elsewhere?

In other parts of the world they have Pension Schemes, Sickness Benefits, Maternity Benefits, Workmen's Compensation, Unemployment Benefit Schemes, Family Allowance Schemes, Insurance Schemes, etc., for old age. The British National Insurance Scheme covers sickness and maternity benefits, unemployment benefits, old age and survivors' pension and funeral grants.

In several European countries, the employers bear a larger share than the workers of the total cost of social security. In the five countries of Northern Europe, for example—that is to say Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden—Government financing out of general taxation also comes from the increasing proportion of total expenditure for social security. In Britain, 90 per cent of the expenditure for National Health Service is borne by the State while the remaining 10 per cent is covered by payments from the National Insurance Scheme. In Albania, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia, according to the model of U.S.S.R., no employee contribution has to be made.

Well, Sir, the worker in this country, as I said the other day, has to depend solely on his salary and apart from the fact that he, as an individual, has to depend solely on his salary, dependants also have to depend on the same salary and that includes wife, your son, your mother, your father and other dependants.

An hon. Member: What about the child?

Mr Mbah: And the child. Well, he has so many obligations to fulfil to himself, to the society and the various organisations.

In this age, Sir, say in Nigeria, we are now passing from the age of firewood to kerosene stove and then to electricity oven and then fridge: the worker wants these. We are passing from bicycle to scooter and from scooter to car: the worker wants these. We are passing from gramophone to radio, from radiogram to television: the worker wants these. Now how does he get the money for all these? He is also aspiring to attain a very high standard of living and to save against a rainy day. The result, Sir, is that the majority of the workers in this country are merely existing. That is why I whole-heartedly welcome the step taken by the Government to provide the National Provident Fund. The introduction of the scheme is a step in the right direction, for which the Government must be highly congratulated.

It is proposed that it should cover the field of employees of ten or more. The objective should be to cover all non-pensionable employees, although the administrative difficulties involved cannot be ignored.

There is one point on which I want to invite the attention of the hon. Minister of Labour and that is the ceiling of £40 per month should be raised to £60. This is necessary in view of the fact that there are instances, more noticeable in the private sector, where employees of over £40 per month are non-pensionable staff and possibly there is no scheme to which they belong. It is also not considered satisfactory that the employer and employee should contribute an equal amount to the Fund. The employer should be able to contribute twice the contribution of the employee to the Scheme. This is more so because already in some of the existing Provident Schemes in certain commercial concerns the practice is that the employer pays twice the contribution of the employee. I have instances in mind, and I am prepared to mention them should the Minister so desire.

It is good that Government will ensure that no hardship is caused to such employees when the Provident Scheme comes into operation. Well, Sir, in the Budget Speech the hon. Minister of Finance gave the indication that loans could be raised from the Fund, that is workers' money, to finance development projects. I will later come to this, but I want to

say, Sir, that while I am not opposed to this it is to be emphasised that such loans should be on a reasonable rate of interest.

Government is to be congratulated, Sir, for undertaking to provide a scheme with an initial pattern to meet the cost of accommodation, office equipment, *et cetera*. While the economy of the provident fund is to be jealously guarded, it is to be hoped that Government will not abdicate its responsibility, to see the scheme a success.

It is noted, Sir, that provision is made in the composition of the Advisory Council for a tripartite type contribution, namely Government, employers and contributors. I like to point out, Sir, that the usage of the word contributors should not derogate the representative position of the Trade Unions. It is noted that, in addition to this Advisory Council, an Investment Committee is proposed to be set up. I consider this a duplication, unless it is to be made a sub-committee to the Advisory Council comprising the tripartite membership, this government, employers and Trade Union representatives.

It would appear that sickness and maternity benefits are slightly covered by the scheme. I have noticed, Sir, some discrimination against female workers. The law provides that because a female worker is provided with maternity leave she should not be entitled to sick benefit. I wish the Government would give this further consideration; after all is said and done, there is a divine injunction that we should increase and multiply. I do not expect any female worker to suffer because she happened to be a woman. I can only hope that the hon. Minister will not hesitate to review this in the light of what is pressed for. The truth is that while the majority of employees in this county adhere to the provisions of the Labour Code Ordinance, there are those who have no regard for the law or the legal practice of this country. We are to face facts.

Well, Sir, we come to the question of casuals. On this question of casuals I am highly interested. I understand the Government is reluctant to extend the scheme to casual workers at this early stage for the reason that difficulties will be encountered. Much as I would not like at this stage to praise the

[MR MBAH]

Government for this, it is essential in the interim, that a water-tight provision is made to safeguard against excessive use of casual labourers by unscrupulous employers. I know of an instance where a worker has been described as a casual while he has been in the job for two or three years. I whole-heartedly accept the definition of the law here; that is employment should be for three months. If only Government can stand up to this and pursue it I do not see why this anomaly should not be removed.

Self employment: persons such as carpenters, shoe makers, mechanics should be included in the scheme if they so desire. There is no provision for them and I hope Government will try to consider this. For purposes of membership of the scheme, Sir, there should be no discrimination on the grounds of sex, age, nationality or race. The Provident Fund Scheme should be extended to all sections of our working population without discrimination.

I notice, Sir, that in one of the clauses time is made the onus of application for membership. In another clause it is said that where a group of workers have on their own decided to take advantage of their fund they would be accepted, whereas in the case of the Missionary the onus rests on the Missionaries not the workers themselves. I think workers under Missionaries should be free like their counterparts in other places to become members of the Fund if they choose to do so. Well, Sir, I do not want to belabour the issue, I hope when we come to the proper item I might be able to say one or two things. On the whole I praise the Federal Government for the steps taken to improve the lot of the working population of this country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to associate myself on behalf of this side of the House with the sentiments expressed by my hon. friend and comrade in the labour front hon. Mbah.

(Some hon. Members: Hear, hear. Labour Leader No. 1).

The labourers of this country, I mean those in the lower income grade who have been suffering a great deal can only say to the Minister of Labour 'well done'. As I said the other day, the duty of any Government, of any

political party, an independent country should be interested in the welfare of the common man. Every one in this House who is not a chief falls under the category of the common man.

Sir, as I said, the Bill is acceptable to this side of the House. And I would like Mr Speaker, to say that those who know nothing about labour on that side of the House keep on disturbing me. (*Hear, hear*). About two or three years ago, a certain Government in this country had to bring some experts from America to work on this scheme. It cost that Government over one million pounds. Now that the cries of the workers three years ago are being heard by the Government we can do nothing but say 'well done' to that Government.

I have a few observations however. It will be wrong for me to stand here and mention Britain, America, India, Russia. We must use local materials. I am not condemning, but I would like to say that it is wrong for us to compare conditions of labour in this country with conditions of labour in America and Great Britain. This is why our labour front has many difficulties: we are to compare conditions in this country with conditions in other countries.

Mr Speaker, now my observations are as follows: In November last year a Bill was passed in this Parliament. Naturally I was very, very apprehensive and my apprehension has come out true. When this Bill is passed in this House, the Federal Government and all the Regional Governments should see to it that the law is applicable to all employers in this country. At the moment, only the Shell-BP follows Government directives.

The labour leaders in the Eastern Region are waiting for word from the Federal Government in connection with that Bill, namely the "check-off" system. My apprehension is that if it is intended to affect only Federal Government workers, it should be scrapped. I want to say that what is good for any worker in the Federal territory is equally good for any worker in the Regions. (*Hear, hear*). I say again that it should not only apply to workers employed by the Government of the Federation. It has been the practice in the past that whenever there is a case of revision of salaries, the mighty U.A.C., the mighty U.T.C., the mighty French Company and all

the other mercantile houses will sit back and say it does not apply to them. The time has arrived when any law pertaining to labour in this country, once it is passed in this Parliament, must apply to all employers of labour in this country. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I said I had some apprehension. I still have that apprehension.

M. Saidu Zongo (Zaria Central): On a point of order, Sir, Mr Ekanem is not serious about his case.

Mr Speaker: He could not be more serious.

Mr Ekanem: Sir, I support this Bill but when it is passed into law this night—and this night it is going to be passed—it should not only apply to the Federal Government or the Regional Governments, but should equally apply to private labour employers and all mercantile houses in this country. It should also apply to the workers on the minesfield—the Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria. It should also apply to any African who is an employer of labour, irrespective of whether he is a Nigerian or not. Nationality should not be considered. When this is done the workers of this country will know that we have a good government.

Another request which ought to have been made, Sir, is that he that bites too much chews warily. I will never agree, and I am saying it according to the dictates of my conscience, that if we take that which ought to have been done to the workers of this country all at once, we will do nothing; and for the future or whenever we meet, I will ask the Minister of Labour and the Government for that matter to consider the introduction of a National Insurance Company and the establishment of a National Wage structure. These things ought to be done together. There is nothing so pleasing to a man of old age or a man on his death bed as to look back and say “I have left something for my children and I can be sure of a decent burial.”

Sir, I understand that, according to the Minister who presented this Bill, contributions will be at the rate of three pence for every five shillings. I accept it. I say so because a worker is expected to contribute towards the funds of his union and if at the initial stage the amount is above that, the unions will protest.

But my acceptance is without prejudice to any future consideration with a view to revising the rate. The point I wish to make, Sir, is that I hope. . . . (*Interruptions*).

An hon. Member: And finally.

Mr Ekanem: I am entitled to thirty minutes and I do not want somebody who knows nothing about labour to disturb me. Sir, I understand that workers will be entitled to benefits up to £40 per annum. I have carefully worked it out and have to say that all workers employed by the firms of Chellaram, Leventis, Lebanese and even the Jewish firms in this country should be entitled to these benefits. If you earn 4s-1d or even 5s-11d, it will no doubt be more than £40 per annum and so, you should be entitled to it. I say that every worker should be entitled to it.

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Sir, the Jews are now busy trying the case of a German, so they should not be brought into this matter.

Mr Ekanem: This morning, Sir, somebody said Mr A. G. Leventis is a Jew.

An hon. Member: He is a Greek.

Mr Ekanem: Then I would say, beware of the Greeks.

Now, Sir, I want to say something about the question of retiring age. Retiring age at present—and I think I am correct—is 55 years.

An hon. Member: You are wrong.

Mr Ekanem: What do you know? You have never worked in your life. (*Laughter*). You will agree, Sir, that in this country those who are 55 years, and even 80 years of age are employed under the category should be entitled to this provident fund. I am asking that this age limit should be raised because, now, Sir, we have men who are employed as watchmen, gatemen and even some of those employed in this Parliament who are above 55 years. It is therefore necessary to tell the Government through the Minister of Labour to increase the age limit from fifty-five to sixty years.

The hon. Minister of Labour says that the operative date will be 1st October, 1961. I say, Sir, that the law should be made retrospective: This is most important. Mr Speaker

[MR EKANEM]

Sir, I am happy to say that this is the best Bill so far brought to this hon. House by the Minister of Labour and I am, therefore, appealing to the Minister to let the effective date be 1st of October, 1960, to commemorate the independence of this country.

The Minister also spoke of the employment of appropriate staff. I agree that we cannot work without the staff but I would like to say that there are some people in the Ministry of Labour whose work is to come to the office and sit down doing nothing. I am being very fair and I would like to say that there is only one person in the Ministry of Labour who knows something about human relations in Industry; the others sit down there doing nothing. So the question of staff should not be used to make this scheme ineffective. The Minister should get the staff now and let the Provident Fund Scheme start working effectively.

Sir, I only observed that the only people who are going to apply this scheme when it comes into effect are employers who employ up to 400 people. You do not know the tricks of these employers. I know the tricks. What they will do is to split their staff. They send some to the Eastern Region, some to the Northern Region some to the Western Region and some to Lagos with the result that they will always tell you only the number of staff they have in a station where you are asking. If you ask them at Enugu they will tell you the number of people in their station there and if in Lagos they will tell you the number of people in that station. Mr Speaker, Sir, they will always make sure they do not employ up to 400 workers in any one station.

Further, Sir, many of the European firms still want to exploit us and what they will say is "These people say they want Independence and they have got it, I know what to do for them. I will keep to the Law". What he does is to employ 399 people, his aggregate number of workers is 399. The Law says 400 but in order to dodge the law he employs 399. I want the Minister of Labour to note this point. I repeat that any unscrupulous employer who wants to cheat this country will always employ 399 people and he will be covered by the Law. If you say to them: "Why do you not want the

Provident Fund Scheme for your workers?" He will say "Look, I have only 399 workers".

It is also very gratifying to hear from the Minister of Labour that the initial money for this fund will be made by the Federal Government. I am sure my Northern Colleagues will bear me out—there are many employers of labour in the mines field. With my seven years' experience in the mines field, I know what the expatriate tin miners there are doing. The National Provident Fund should apply to other employers of labour in this country, if not, the expatriate employers of labour in the mines field will only be exploiting the workers there. The National Provident Fund scheme should apply with all force to the workers in the mines field; this also goes to the Coal miners in Enugu, the Lead-Zinc miners in Abakaliki and the people prospecting for oil in the Eastern Region. I am also appealing to the Minister of Labour to see to it that this scheme applies to the self-employed in this country, for example, the shoemaker, the carpenter—(*Several hon. Members*): Ayes, Ayes.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. I think this noise must stop.

Mr Ekanem: Mr Speaker, Sir, I know there are certain people in this House especially on the other Side who will use this Bill to make a fortune for themselves. I will go further, Sir, and say that the Missionaries used to be the largest employers of labour in this country—the Catholics, the Anglicans and all other churches. I think this law should apply also to the Missionaries, it should apply with full force to the Missionaries.

Several hon. Members: Ayes, Ayes.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. Honestly, I cannot tolerate this 'Ayes' before the Question.

Mr Ekanem: Mr Speaker, Sir, before I take my seat I would like to repeat what I have said at the onset and that is to thank the Minister of Labour for his good gesture in introducing this Bill and, I am assuring him that the workers of this country are willing to co-operate with this Government in any matter which they think is not detrimental to their interest.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to refer to the first schedule. Section 1 of the schedule stipulates that members of the advisory council—

Mr Speaker : Order, order. If the hon. Member wishes to speak specifically on the Schedule, I think he will have to wait until we come to the Schedule in the Committee stage.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : Well, in clause 2, Sir, we have this definition: "casual worker means any worker engaged on a daily contract of service who has not been employed by one employer for a continuous period of three months, the continuity of which shall not be construed as interrupted if broken by not more than fourteen days during the period of three months".

I have no objection to this, but I would rather like the Minister of Labour to ensure that this is incorporated in his Ministry and widely circulated so that all employers will not take advantage by employing people for more than three months as has been stipulated here now.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to know this. Supposing an employer has employed somebody for three months as a casual worker and after the expiration of the three months he has no money to convert him into permanent establishment, does it mean that he should dispose of this man's services ?

Clauses 2 to 10 agreed to.

Clause 11.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in Clause 11 (1) you have "where an employer has in his service less workers than the number for the time being prescribed (whether the workers have previously been subject to this Act or not), he may, if a majority of the workers who are not exempted signify their desire in writing to become

subject to this Act, at any time apply to the Director in writing to bring the workers under the provisions of this Act . . .".

That bit is acceptable to us, but if you go further, Sir, to sub-clause (A) you will see: "Any missionary society desirous of becoming subject to this Act in respect of any missionary may at any time apply to the Director in writing together with a copy of the resolution passed by it and duly certified as required by the rules of the missionary society; and if the Director is satisfied he shall notify the missionary society accordingly, and the missionary society shall on receipt of the notice be deemed to be an employer of its missionaries for the purposes of this Act". And "missionary is there defined as including "any clerk in holy orders, minister of religion or person acting as a missionary", and "missionary society" is defined as including "any church or religious body by whom a missionary is paid".

My contention is that this is quite superfluous. This particular Bill is expected to operate in all industries, and so far as there is provision in Clause 11 (1) that provided the workers give indication of their willingness to take advantage of the provident fund, there is no point in singling out missionaries for a special clause. It is quite superfluous.

Mr S. J. Umoren (Uyo North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting what the hon. Member is saying, this clause about missionaries is ambiguous. I feel that if this law is to protect workers, we are aware that missionary bodies in this country employ people in different capacities, some as teachers, some as labourers, clerks, printers and technicians and so on. This clause should be removed and all missionary bodies and voluntary agencies should be directed to be subject to this law, because if this clause exists missionary organisations can exempt themselves by not making any application to the Government under this very clause.

M. Ali Gwarzo (Gwarzo West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think I understand that in this Bill "workers" here means workers in the Federal territory of Lagos or anywhere else in the country. But what about the workers in the Native Authorities in the Northern Region ?

[M. GWARZO]

I hope that the Government, in consultation with the Regional Governments, will make provision for the workers under the Native Authorities to come under this scheme. I think this is very important and I am making it as a suggestion to the Minister.

Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am of the opinion that the points made by the hon. Members are really worthwhile. I feel that this Bill is so beneficial that the Government should make every effort to bring it to the notice of workers.

Workers in voluntary agency institutions should be allowed, without any hindrance or delay or discrimination, to take full advantage of this scheme. I feel that all workers in Government, local authorities and voluntary agencies and firms should bask in the sunshine of Nigerian freedom. This is the real freedom. When freedom comes and one section of the people—

The Chairman: Order. This speech should have been made during the Second Reading. We are now particularly on clause 11.

Clause 11 agreed to.

Clauses 12 to 20 agreed to.

Clause 21.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): Mr Chairman, Sir, as I said when this Bill was being presented, the age put there for receiving the benefit is 55; all the people who will be benefitted by this scheme will be those from the age of 55 upwards. I think that age is too early and the Minister should consider changing it to 60 or 70 years.

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Mr Chairman, Sir, at the moment the retiring age in Government and allied services is 55 and I feel, Sir, that the provision here should not be at variance with the retiring age for pension purposes as has been misconceived by two or three previous speakers.

Fifty-five years is quite reasonable. I think it would be wrong for any scheme to make provision for one's retiring benefits after one is seventy years old. By that time one is bound to be toothless, very old, haggard and beggarly, and it will not be possible for one to enjoy the benefits of one's savings. So when one

gets one's savings at 55 and wants to live to be 80 years, one has 25 years—sufficient time to spend the money paid in saving.

Clause 21 agreed to.

10 p.m.

The Chairman: Order, order, when I call these clauses and an hon. Member wishes to speak on a particular clause, he should stand up and say 'clause so-and-so' but otherwise I will have to pass the clauses.

Clauses 22-28 agreed to.

Clause 29.

Mr S. A. Yerokun (Oyo Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, the membership of the Investment Committee appears to be all public officers. Is there any special reason why a private but able person cannot be co-opted as a member of the Committee?

The Chairman: I am afraid the acoustics in that corner where the hon. Member is speaking is rather bad so that he has to speak as loud as he can to be heard by the House.

Mr Yerokun: Thank you, Mr Chairman. "The membership of the Investment Committee shall consist of one fit officer of the Central Bank of Nigeria, another officer of the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Director". May I know whether it is not possible to co-opt a private but able person to be a member of the Investment Committee?

Mr A. U. D. Mba (Owerri North): Sir, on this same Clause 29 my point is that this is a tripartite membership. In this clause, the membership is made up of one fit officer of the Central Bank of Nigeria nominated by the Governor of the Bank (that is, a Government nominee or a Government representative), one fit officer of the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Director. The officer of the Federal Ministry of Finance is a Government representative and we have the Director who is possibly a Government representative. I was wondering whether it would not be possible to include more or other interests since we are working on a tripartite policy rather than making it throughout a government affair. I agree that the Government is the custodian of the purse of this country but when you come to the provident fund to which people have to contribute, surely the people will like to see

how this money is going to be invested, they will like to know how the money is used. So, to make it all Government affair, I think is not good enough.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I merely want to signify my agreement with what my hon. Friend has said. It is not very fair for Government to operate the Fund, after all Government is not the only employer of labour. We are now asking that even mercantile employees should benefit from the Fund. Therefore, it is better to bring somebody from outside. That is all I want to say.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja): Mr Chairman, Sir, I seem to agree strongly with the hon. A. U. D. Mbah. I think we have a real historical authority for what has been said.

In the past, we had a Provident Fund Committee which was at the time headed by the Financial Secretary as he was then called. At the same time, we had from amongst the contributors certain people elected annually. I am referring to the old provident fund of the Nigerian Railways which, incidentally, happened to be the only one at the time. I think it will be a good thing for the Government to have this in mind. It is a pity that it is so belated and one wonders why it did not occur to the hon. Minister of Labour when this Bill was being put up. I think that if it is not too late the contributors themselves, in practice, should have a say in the Committee. I am not putting an amendment right now but the point should be borne in mind. In a legislation where there is extreme hurry premature amendments are inevitable.

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Sir, I would like to remind Members that the Investment Committee is strictly a professional committee and we are drawing on the lines of what obtains in a few countries where this has been a success. It is strictly a professional committee and we are not prepared to change it.

Clause 29, agreed to.

Clause 30.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah: The hon. Minister of Finance has told us that the Government would provide the initial capital for this business. There is an ambiguity in this clause. I want

this to be clarified. The clause states: "The investment of moneys in the Fund not otherwise required shall be subject to any directions given by the Investment Committee; and for the purposes of this section it shall be lawful for moneys in the Fund to be expended in the purchase of land and buildings for the administration of this Act". I am not clear about this. Do you mean that this land would be bought as an asset to the Fund or for the purpose of administration using the money to hire houses and all the rest of it when we have been given the initial assurance by both the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Labour that Government would provide this?

The Minister of Labour: Sir, Government gives the initial grant but the expansion of the scheme is the responsibility that must be met from the funds of the scheme.

Clause 30 agreed to.

Clauses 31 and 32 agreed to.

Clause 33.

Oba S. A. Oladiran (Okitipupa South): Sir, Clause 33 states that, "Subject to the provisions of this section, the Minister may with the concurrence of the Federal Minister of Finance and after consultation, if he thinks fit, with the Advisory Council, from time to time fix the rate of interest to be allowed on accounts of members of the Fund at the end of each financial year." Sir, in determining the rate of interest the Government should consider that the nearer a contributor is to the age of retirement, the higher should be the interest accruing to his subscription. That is just my observation.

Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa (Ahoada Central): Sir, I wonder why the rate of interest should not be stagnant; and why should it vary from one financial year to another financial year.

Clause 33 agreed to.

Clause 34 agreed to.

Clause 35.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South): Mr Chairman, Sir, Clause 35 lists a number of offences which may be committed under this Act. And these offences include evading payment, false statement or representation, production of false document and, in particular, obstruction and assault on any inspector under this Act. The sanction in each case on a

[CHIEF AKIN-OLUGBADE]
summary conviction is a fine not exceeding £100 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both such fine and imprisonment. And under Clause 40, an inspector, a labour inspector, may prosecute, conduct, defend before a magistrate's court. I am wondering, Sir, whether the Minister would not consider it advisable that Crown Counsel should be given the power to prosecute. The liberty of the individual is of prime importance especially in an offence where the magnitude of the punishment is up to £100 or six months' imprisonment, or to both such fine and imprisonment. I think it will be too much to expect an Inspector of Labour to prosecute an offender or an accused person who has for instance been charged with obstructing or assulting his fellow Labour Inspector. I would urge, Sir, that the Minister should consider seriously the advisability of getting Crown Counsel or law officers to prosecute.

The Minister of Labour : I can understand the interest of the hon. Gentleman. He belongs to the profession of Law. All I am saying is this. There are Labour Inspectors who know everything as legislators know about this law. It is not the thing that we should refer to many law books. In my humble opinion, these well-trained Labour Inspectors understand this law better than lawyers do. (*Several hon. Members : No, No.*)

The Chairman : Order, order, order ; Mr Mbakogu Order ! This is not a parliamentary way of doing things.

An hon. Member : Lawyers !

The Chairman : Lawyers, they are certainly behaving, I hope.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think the hon. Minister of Labour is very correct. With about 400 law students in England to-day, there is no doubt that some of those Labour Inspectors will be lawyers in the future.

The Minister of Labour : I quite agree that we have youngmen very well trained to interpret just this one section of the Ordinance and their duty is to go to the court and prosecute only upon this. They will not relate them to any points of law. So, in my opinion, they are best suited for this work. I know this

may mean loss of professional money to some of my hon. Friends but we must face the fact. And in defence of the poor workers of Nigeria, I would like to bring to your notice that this applies more to employers because you find on a scheme of this nature some employers, a few of them though, try to evade their responsibilities. Nigeria is likely to be out of tune with this sort of people and so we are making this provision to enable us take appropriate action against employers committing offences under this Act. Even in the Health Ministry there are Sanitary Inspectors who prosecute people for common act. They do not have to be lawyers before they are appointed to do that job.

Clause 35, agreed to.

Clause 36.

The Chairman : In Clause 36, last line, the last three words are "contribution became due". Will hon. Members please take note of that.

Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not know why this Bill insists on six years from the date when the contribution became due. What will happen if the body to pay this debt is dead or is not functioning by that time. I feel that the time is rather too long. The person benefitting from such a contribution may have died or may find it very difficult to recover the facilities if he is to wait for six years.

Clause 36, agreed to.

Clauses 37-39, agreed to.

Clause 40.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade : Mr Chairman, Sir, we see the phrase "With the consent of the Director, an Inspector may prosecute, conduct or defend before a Magistrate's Court in his own name any complaint or other proceeding arising under this Act or in the discharge of his duty as an inspector". Will the Minister please say whether that consent will be oral or written, or whether it will be a matter of evidence in Court ?

The Minister of Labour : The consent invariably will be written.

Mr P. E. Ekanem : In his own name. Mr Ekanem is a Labour Inspector and he goes to court to prosecute Ladipo. What has Ladipo

done to Ekanem? This is in exercise of his duties. Why should he prosecute in his own name? (*Interruptions*).

Mr A. U. D. Mbah : With all seriousness we cannot treat this issue with levity. I am of the strong opinion that time is overdue when the Minister of Labour should provide himself with a Legal Adviser. There is the need for a lawyer to be attached to his Ministry in view of the legislations of this nature. We have passed the Check-off System; we have the Labour Code, we have all these Ordinances. We are now coming to Provident Fund, and we want laymen to go to the court to prosecute and do all this type of thing. Time is indeed overdue for the Minister to have a Legal expert attached to his department. (*Interruptions*.)

Clause 40, agreed to.

Clause 41 :

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson) : I beg to move : Clause 41, page C.87, line 49, at end add—“(2) For the purposes of this section, *committee* includes the Advisory Council.”

The purpose of this amendment is to make it perfectly clear that Members of the Parliament of the Federation or of the Legislature of any Region could become members of the Advisory Council and shall not thereby lose their seats in the Legislature.

Amendment proposed.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : Is the Minister seriously contending that that proviso will override section 10 of our Constitution? Although he says he does not need lawyers, but I would like to hear his view.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 41, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 42 agreed to.

Clause 43 :

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) : Mr Chairman, I would like to know why the power rests on the Director alone to give the decision. It is so stated here : “(1) If any question of fact arises as to the liability of an employer or any other person to pay contributions under this Act, the question shall be determined by the Director whose decision shall be final.”

I would like to know from the Minister why this power must remain in the hands of the Director alone.

Clause 43 agreed to.

Clause 44 :

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move : Clause 44, page C.88, line 32, sub-clause (3) paragraph (a), after “worker” insert “under that scheme and this Act.”

This clause gives power to amend existing employers' schemes to take account of the National Provident Fund. As the clause reads at present, it might be argued that no change is made in the existing employers' schemes. This is not intended. All that is intended is that workers should be no worse off under the existing scheme plus the National Provident Fund and the amendment makes this clear.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 44, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 45-47 agreed to.

First Schedule :

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson) : I beg to move : First Schedule, paragraph 1, page C.90, line 16, after “Government” insert “and Regional Governments”.

The clause is just to provide that the five representatives of the Government should be Federal. A strong representation has been made by the Regions that one of these representatives should include the Regions, and we have all agreed that the amendment should enable this to be done as at present put on the Order Paper.

Amendment proposed.

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I believe that it takes two to make a quarrel or two to reach a bargain. I feel that the interest of the employers has not been adequately protected. We are having only two members here to represent the employers. I think, that if the workers are going to have five . . .

The Chairman : The hon. Member is not speaking on the Amendment but on the Schedule. He should wait until I have put the question on the Schedule.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : Mr Chairman, on the Amendment we have "five shall represent the Federal Government and the Regional Governments". Will that be in addition to (b) where we have "three shall represent the Regional Governments as employers"? Will that be in addition to the three for the Regional Governments?

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

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson) : I beg to move: First Schedule, page C.91, line 9, at end add—"10. A substitute member may be appointed in like manner for any one meeting a member is unable to attend."

Amendment proposed.

Mr R. O. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : Sir, I want to refer to sections 1 and 8 of the First Schedule. Section 1 stipulates the membership of the Advisory Council, and then section 8 goes further to stipulate the quorum. It says, "The quorum for any meeting of the Advisory Council shall be seven of whom not less than one from each group shall be present". My submission is that this is a mandatory provision—(Interruptions).

The Chairman : Order. There is so much noise that it will be difficult for the Reporters and me to hear the hon. Member. With these microphones, small voices are amplified greatly and that adds to the difficulty.

Mr Akinjide : Mr Chairman, Sir, I was saying that although for purposes of this section 8 the members of the Regional Governments and those of the employers are regarded as a group, but even then the working of the Advisory Council can still be paralysed or made impossible if the workers should stage a show-down, because in spite of the proviso under section 8, the workers form a group, I think, they should have two representatives.

If these two have a dispute with the Minister of Labour for one reason or the other and they say, "Well, we are not attending your meeting", it means the committee cannot meet, it will not form a quorum, and therefore the function under section 8 of the Bill becomes virtually impossible. So I suggest that the Minister removes the mandatory word "shall" from

section 8. So, I would suggest that the Minister removes the mandatory provision of five from Section 8.

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, as I was saying a few minutes ago, I still feel that the interests of workers are not adequately protected. He who pays the piper calls the tune.

An hon. Member : Who is the piper?

Chief Okunowo : The employers. Workers are given two representatives in a Council comprising about 20 people. I think consideration should be given to it.

First Schedule agreed to.

Second Schedule.

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson) : Paragraph 1 page C. 91, line 12, after "department" insert "or authority".

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Minister of Labour : Second Schedule, paragraph 5, page C. 91, line 21, after "whose" insert "written".

Amendment put and agreed to.

Second Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Third Schedule.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am just concerned about the contribution of 3d for every 5s. This makes 1s for every £ to be matched by the employer; for a person who is getting £10 per month that will be £12 a year. Now, supposing the person is 21 years at the time he gets any gainful employment, he will be working for 34 years before he becomes 55 years old, which is the retiring age. And if he has been saving his personal contribution and his employers' contribution is £1 a month or £12 a year that will give him £12 × 34 which is £408. Now, let us suppose that this man has at the age of 55, 15 years to live, that will give him 70 years. Let us say he has 15 years to live after retiring age. Work it out and you will see that he only gets £2-5s-0d per month for the 15 years that he will be getting this benefit. I think, Sir, that this too little for old age. If he makes any contribution during his useful years, must be able to live comfortably during his old age. So, I think that 1s, matched by 1s, is not too much a contribution to demand of somebody who is working in his useful years and his

employers using all his useful energy. Why not raise 3d for every 5s to 1s? That will give him something to live on when he can work no more. This should be considered.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): Mr Chairman, Sir, while in principle I endorse this sentiment, I do not agree with the last speaker. Earlier, I drew attention to the fact that in this country we have already a Provident Fund—the way the employer is paying 100 per cent while the worker pays 50 per cent. I am open to correction, but I can quote Tobacco Company, or Mobil Oil. My information is that the employer pays 100 per cent—that is 6d—while the worker pays 50 per cent—that is 3d.

I realise that in this country, Government is the largest employer of labour and Government must as such be guided by self-interest. But what are we going to do? I want to be assured by the Minister of Labour that where it is not possible to convince employers to pay 6d, he should make arrangements to ensure that in those industries where the 100 per cent and 50 per cent rate is practised, it should not be dislocated.

Third Schedule agreed to.

Fourth Schedule agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported with amendments.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the third time.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have accepted the principle of this Bill, which is progressive and in conformity with the stand of the Action Group party in this country (*Interruptions*).

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central): Point of order, Sir. My hon. Friend, Akin-Olugbade should not indulge in reading a political speech when we are doing the third reading of this Bill.

Mr Speaker: I will have to decide that.

Chief Akin-Olugbade: I dare say, Sir, that the Minister of Labour should feel ashamed of the sort of business that has been done with this Bill. If he has no legal adviser he has the

services of the Attorney-General and the Legal Draftsman. It is unfortunate that he should have to come here and propose an amendment to everything about which he has to deal (*Interruptions*). There is no doubt that this is one of the reasons why there is no unity among the working class in this country. I think the Government as a whole should accept blame for this Bill.

The Minister of Labour: I very much appreciate, Sir, the position in which my hon. Friend has found himself. It is a pity that we have not made it possible for lawyers who do not thrive very well to get anything out of this Bill. I would say to the Opposition that the amendments made should earn encomiums for the Ministry of Labour because these amendments stem from the fact that Regional Governments have put in their points of view and we have accommodated them. That is why we have put in the amendments. As Members know, we are not self-centred, although I understand the attitude of the Opposition and they have my sympathy. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order. The question is that the Bill be read a third time, and I think we must proceed to deal with the Question.

Question, That the Bill be now read the third time, put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.

PENSIONS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Establishments (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the second reading of the Bill entitled the Pensions (Special Provisions) Act, 1961.

The purpose of this Bill, Sir, is to make statutory provisions for increases in pensions which were granted before the 1st September, 1959.

As hon. Members are no doubt aware, pensions are calculated on the basis of an officers retirement salary and the number of years he has served. That means that officers who retired before one or more of the post-war salaries revision are drawing pensions on unrevised salaries; that is to say, on salary rates which take no account of the figure by which the cost of living standard has increased. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order. There is too much noise going on. May I again remind hon. Members that if they have to confer they will have to do so in undertones; and by "undertones" I suppose everybody knows what it means.

The Minister of Establishments : Thank you, Mr Speaker. Sir, although there is no legal obligation to increase the pensions of officers who have retired some time ago, it has always been accepted by the Federal Government that there is a strong moral obligation to assist those pensioners to meet the increase in the cost of living, and it has thus been the Government's policy to review the rates of pension on any occasion when the rise in the cost of living has necessitated an increase in the salaries of serving officers. (*Hear, hear*).

After the introduction of the salary scale with effect from 1st September, 1959 the Government appointed a Committee of officials to revise the rates of pensions in payment and to make recommendations as to the rates of increase which it would be appropriate to grant on pensions brought into payment before that date.

Broadly speaking, the Committee recommends an increase of 12½ per cent in the pensions of Nigerians and expatriate officers who retired after 1st October, 1954 on consolidated salaries in Group 7 and above, and expatriate officers who retired before that date on equivalent salary groups and an increase of 15 per cent on all other pensions and annual allowances. These recommendations were based on the findings of the Mbanefo Commission, with regard to the increase in the cost of living, and followed closely the pattern of increases in serving officers' salaries which were put into payment with effect from 1st September, 1959.

The recommendations of the Committee were considered by all the Governments of the Federation at the National Council on Establishments and it was unanimously agreed that they should be recommended to the Governments for acceptance. In order to avoid undue hardship to the pensioners, the Federal Government decided to put the increases into payment as early as possible on an *ex gratia* basis and the majority of pensioners have already received their arrears. (*Hear, hear*).

The Bill now before the House seeks to give statutory effect to the recommendations of the Committee, to which I have already referred, and, if it is enacted, it will mean that the increases will be paid on a statutory instead of an *ex gratia* basis.

I am confident that this Bill will receive the whole-hearted support of the Members of this House as a measure of relief to pensioners who have served the Government faithfully and well in past years, and I have pleasure in commending it to the House.

The Minister of Economic Development (Hon. J. C. Obande) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I just want to call the attention of the Minister to one point, and that is the undue delay in the receipt of pensions by people in the rural areas. Now the delay is not only caused in the sub-Treasuries but there is also delay in getting their pension papers.

Now the spirit of granting pensions is that people who have reached retiring age and have worked for the Government should be paid money in their old age. Now before they leave their services, their papers must be given to them. Their pension papers must be handed over to them to take home with them in order to facilitate payment later, for it sometimes takes from six months to one year before the papers come through from Lagos or from the Regions to people in the rural areas, and as many of these pensioners are not educated they have to go to letter writers to help them clear their papers through the appropriate channels and then to get their money from the Treasury. It is so burdensome that sometimes they have even to spend some of the little money that goes to them—sometimes as little as £4-10s-0d a month—in paying letter writers who help them to clear their papers.

I appeal to the Ministry to help the people in rural areas to get their money as quickly as possible.

Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, during the debate on the Budget last year I pointed out to the Minister of Pensions, and I am going to do so again when we come to the debate on the Appropriation

Bill, that people in his Ministry are in the habit of doing things too late. In his Ministry the people who do this type of job do not realize the importance of their work to the people who are affected, and they do it in such a sluggish and slovenly way that some people are adversely and irretrievably affected.

The gentleman who has just spoken pointed out that people in remote areas suffer. That is, not the only thing. In the first place this Bill is a belated one, good as it is. There are a good number of people well-known to everybody in this House who ought to have benefited if this Bill had been brought up two or three years ago. They have not benefited from it. But what matters is that in the Ministry of Establishments people who are responsible for the computation of pensions do not think of the poor people who have worked for a long time and want to enjoy the little bit that is going to be given to them.

I have known of the case of a person who did not get his papers through for a full nine months. I know of one now who died a year ago whose gratuity is still in the process of being worked out and, as a result of the hardship, two of his children have been sent out of school because there is no money to pay for their fees, even though the gratuity of the deceased was sufficient to discharge his *post mortem* responsibility.

Not only that. The debt which had accumulated from the sudden death of this civil servant is a real difficulty to the poor children, and the man had worked for the Government for so long that, I am sure, that when the time does arrive for this gratuity to be paid, it should be paid. In the meantime, it has caused a lot of difficulty to the poor children and dependants.

I know of another case. The children had to be stopped from school because of the sudden death of the worker, even though the money which was to come from the Government should be sufficient to keep these children going. Yet the people who work out these things would not do it in time, and, in the meantime, the children were suffering. If you want to give a hungry man food, please give it to him when he can eat it, not when he has lost his appetite, and is close to death, and cannot eat.

I strongly advise the Government that, while this is quite a welcome Bill, people who are responsible for the job should do it quickly and

effectively, so that the people concerned do not suffer. When we come to the details of the Bill, I shall say more. Thank you.

The Minister of Establishments : I thank hon. Members for the comments they have made, although I do not agree with the point on which a Member has just spoken, namely that the Bill is belated and should have come two or three years ago. This Bill was based upon increases recommended by the Mbanefo Salaries review, which, I am sure, did not take place three years ago, but only a year ago.

Members will also appreciate the difficulty of computing pensions as quickly as they would wish. It is not the fault of the officials in my Ministry that some of the pensioners do not get their pay in time, because they have to work in close co-operation with other officials who are not in that Ministry.

Also in many cases we find that a pensioner had worked before with another Government, or had ended his services not with the Federal Government but with another Regional Government, and we have got to compute and co-ordinate with the other employers of those persons, as well as consult with the Accountant-General's Office and also the Public Service Commission. These things take a lot of time, and so hon. Members will appreciate the difficulties which the officials in my Ministry encounter:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the second time and committed to a committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clause 1.

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, as one of the Nigerian pensioners, I wish to thank the Minister of Establishments for his continued generosity towards the pensioners. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order. The Official Reporters have intimated that their micro-phones have failed. They have specially requested that hon. Members minimise interruptions to enable them hear adequately.

Chief Okunowo : I have always opposed the Government granting unnecessary facilities to Nigerian workers. It is always a tendency to provide quarters for people in Ikoyi, which I think, they do not need, especially the facility to take local leave. But it is very good of the Heads of Departments that all these facilities have been withdrawn.

The point I would like to make is that this increase in pension is granted on account of hardship in this country and not hardship in Europe. Why should Europeans in England be given an increase in pensions? I would not raise a voice if the conditions in Nigeria and England were the same. What about the Europeans working for the U.A.C., are they going to get? Anytime there is an increase in Nigeria the people in England get the same consideration, but in this case there is no evidence before us that the cost of living in Europe has increased correspondingly to those in Nigeria.

Therefore if it were the case I would not have grudged the idea of giving the Europeans their adequate share. There must be evidence before us that in England they are suffering. If our expatriate pensioners in England are suffering they should be given an increase commensurate with the situation. The Government can continue with the policy of giving adequate facilities to Europeans who come to this country to work leaving their climate to come and submit to our own climate. If you give them something nobody is going to grumble about it, but whenever it comes to our own turn, I think, the European expatriates, too, should not grumble about it.

On this occasion the Government should take a note of that and see that they do not make increases such as these to be of general application. It has to be in a few cases only when the people are actually suffering.

The Minister of Establishments : I think it is only fair that when we increase pensions for our pensioners we should not discriminate. I agree that expatriates residing in Nigeria live differently from those residing in European countries, but it is a fact that the cost of living is rising not only in this country but in many other countries. If due to a higher cost of living in this country we increase pensions and leave out expatriates from England who are pensioners, and the time comes, for example,

when England thinks that, because of the rise in their cost of living, pensioners there should receive more pay are we going to follow that practice?

Some hon. Members : Yes.

The Minister of Establishments : We are not going to follow what other countries are doing. We must base our actions on conditions prevailing in Nigeria, because most of our workers and pensioners are Nigerians.

Several hon. Members rose—

The Chairman : Order, order. I will permit no more debate on this clause.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3.

11 p.m.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Abaja and Ngwo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, while we appreciate the effort of the Minister in increasing the pensions of people who have worked for the Government, I want to say, Sir, that this does not go far enough as far as the Nigerian pensioners are concerned. Well, Sir, an ordinary individual on a pension of £30 per month in Nigeria will benefit to the tune of £4-10s annually according to this Bill or 7s-6d per month, whereas an expatriate civil servant on a pension of £1,200 will benefit to the tune of £150 annually which comes down to £12-10s per month. I have already spoken, Sir, about this Morgan and Mbanefo Commissions of Inquiry; they raised salaries by 12½ per cent and 15 per cent which is of no use to the workers of this country. The increase in pensions has just been equated to the increase in the salary structure which has just been recommended by these Commissions and I had expected that the Minister could have taken into consideration the amount of money which these people are drawing and increase the pensions of the Nigerian personnel by forty per cent. I think, Sir, that an amendment will be brought to this House to increase these pensions.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Clause 4.

Mr A. Adedamola (Abeokuta) : Mr Chairman, Sir, going through the memorandum and the speech from the Minister on this Bill, one would have expected that the Minister

could tell us in his speech at least why a special provision had to be made by excluding the Western Region. It seems to me that workers in the Federation who had had some service in the Western Region should be equally entitled. I wish the Minister would say why the Western Region should be excluded. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order, order.

The Minister of Establishments : Mr Chairman, Sir, the only reason why paragraph 4 is dealing with the Western Region is that this Bill is based on Mbanefo Salary Commission and in the Western Region they had their increases earlier than the 1st of September; their increases were from the 1st of April.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendments.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the third time.

M A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill and to remind the Minister that in future when demands do occur for pensioners' wages to be reviewed, the review should only be for indigenous pensioners and expatriate pensioners living in Nigeria.

An hon. Member : No, no.

Another hon. Member : Why do you say 'no'?

Mr Speaker : Order, order.

Mr Odulana : Mr Speaker, Sir, the reason why I say this is that the money received in Nigeria should stay as much as possible in Nigeria and, in order to be more economical in future, I give this advice to the Minister. I do not say he did not know, but this is something of advice to the Minister.

Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.

NIGERIAN CITIZENSHIP BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Usman Sarki) : Sir, I rise to move that the Bill for an Act to amend the law as to citizenship and to make further provision for registration as citizen of Nigeria be read for the second time.

Now, this Bill is a further development of the provisions already existing in the Nigerian Citizenship Ordinance of 1960, and the Nigerian (Constitution) Order in Council of 1960. It is a logical extension, in line with conditions existing in most other countries of the world, and will serve to regulate applications for Nigerian nationality.

The legislation already existing establishes that Parliament is the authority to prescribe sundry forms for use by those Nigerians whose citizenship may only be established by registration under the law. As to the forms themselves, I have not much to say: they are all quite clear and self-explanatory.

Hon. Members may wonder why there may exist a class of Nigerians whose citizenship is required to be established by registration. Now, citizenship is acquired principally in two ways: one, by descent and, secondly, by place of birth. Being born under the Flag of an Independent Nigeria gives, generally speaking, to all persons a right to Nigerian Citizenship. Before Independence, there were a large number of persons born in Nigeria, who would have become Nigerian citizens by birth had this been an independent country. It is to restore to such persons a right to citizenship of Nigeria that provision is made for their registration under Section 3 (a).

Similarly, if a person say, from Ghana had married a Nigerian before the first day of October, 1960, and her husband died before that date, she would have been entitled to apply for citizenship if Nigeria had been an independent country. Section 3 (b) proposes to give her such a right. Section 3 (c) permits the wife of a person admitted to citizenship by registration; while Section 3 (d) establishes a special case for widows. Now, all the cases in Section 3 follow in principle the policy adopted by other civilised nations.

Now, before Independence, there were a substantial number of persons who became naturalised in Nigeria as citizens of the United Kingdom and Holland. They were, in the main, persons who had established themselves here over a number of years and who had their permanent domicile and residence in Nigeria. In making their application within Nigeria, the law has recognised them as intending to be domiciled themselves here and thus section 3 (c) has been inserted to provide for granting citizenships of independent Nigeria to such

[MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS]

persons. Persons born within independent Nigeria, as I said earlier, are entitled to Nigerian nationality. This, of course, may be held in addition to another nationality acquired through their father and until such a person attains the age of 22 years, he is known as a person with dual nationality. However, when he reaches the age of 21, which the law has long recognised as years of discretion, he is required to make up his mind whether or not he wishes to retain his Nigerian nationality and he may only do so by renouncing his other nationality, if the law of his other country of nationality allows this, and by taking an Oath of Allegiance to Nigeria and declaring his intention as to his residence and employment. This again is a normal international practice.

Special provision has been made for persons of insane mind. As the adoption of Nigerian citizenship is not a matter to be undertaken lightly, it is essential that persons should understand the nature of the act fully, and those that cannot should not be able to apply for citizenship. This is as much in the interests of the person concerned as it is of Nigeria.

The purpose of section 5 is to bring up-to-date the provision in section 7 of the main Citizenship Ordinance for the renunciation of citizenship of Nigeria by persons of dual nationality and for the registration of same. While section 7 extends the Minister's powers to deprive a person who is a Nigerian citizen by birth of his citizenship when he acquires the citizenship of a foreign country or otherwise claims rights in a foreign country that are exclusive to citizens of that country.

Now, citizenship is not a simple matter. The international rules regarding citizenship have been built up through the ages and I am happy to say that once this Bill is passed, Nigeria will have put itself on as liberal a footing, without adversely affecting the security of the State, as any other country. As I said earlier on, it is Parliament that must prescribe the sundry forms set out in the Third Schedule. I have looked at all these forms carefully with the full advice of the Law Officers and I hope that they will be adequate for many years to come. I am sure Parliament would not wish to be unduly bothered with having to enact new legislation if some minor change was required in the forms and, for this reason, section 10 has been put into the Bill allowing

for the forms in the Third Schedule to be altered by an Order of the Governor-General in Council, which Order will be required to be laid before Parliament.

I think the rest of the Bill is self-explanatory. There are provisions for appointing Commissioners for Oaths and for the payments of fees. I trust that after this Bill is passed, our law regarding citizenship will be adequate for many years to come and, as such, I commend it to this House.

Sir, I beg to move.

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

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to call the attention of the Minister to one particular point here, that is Clause 2, section 2. There is a list of those people who can act as sponsors and listed are Senators, Members of the House of Representatives, Ministers of Religion, barristers or solicitors or doctors or dentists or accountants and any civil servants in receipt of a salary not less than £2,000 per annum.

Mr Chairman, Sir, there is one thing missing, that is any respectable person in the community or in the nation, if you do not want to be parochial, say the nation, for the simple reason that if a person like L. P. Ojukwu sponsors somebody, he will be out of order according to this constitution and maybe anyone of us here, my friend businessman Okunowo, who is a man of high standing in Lagos, suppose he leaves the House of Representatives and retires as an ordinary citizen he cannot sponsor anybody in Lagos ; or Oba Adele of Lagos or even Chief Awolowo, who is neither a doctor nor a dentist.....

Several hon. Members : He is a lawyer

Dr Okeke : All right, he is lawyer. I have cited so many examples of people. My point, Mr Chairman, has been well understood. If we do not add another one which says "or any respectable person in the community or in the nation", we are ruling out people like the Sardauna of Sokoto. . . .

The Chairman : Will Members please minimise their interruptions.

Dr Okeke : . . . or even people like our able Finance Minister, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, who may not come under the caption of a lawyer or a solicitor ; if he is not a member of the House of Representatives but we know his status and we know his standing in the community not only in Warri but in Nigeria as a whole. I am saying that those people who will be affected may be people who do not know so many lawyers and so many doctors.

The Chairman : As far as I can gather, clause 2 deals with interpretation.

Dr Okeke : I was talking to clause 2, section 2. I think it is in order. I have made my point, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman : Order, order. While we might accept light-hearted reflection, I do not think that it is proper that a ruling should be made from anywhere else other than the Chair.

Mr M. A. Omisade (Ife Town): Mr Chairman, the only point which I want to make about section 2 (b) "A Minister of Religion, that is to say, a Minister of a recognised church or mosque". There is no way by which a Minister or perhaps an Imam of a recognised mosque. . . . it will be very difficult to ascertain who is a minister of religion in the mosque and there are different denominations of the Moslem religion. I think this section needs some clarification in order to know exactly what is meant by a minister of a recognised mosque. There is nothing like a minister of such but you can have an Imam of the mosque or dan Imam or whatever you call it. The Minister should give further explanation on that.

Mr G. K. Dada (Ekiti North West): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to a very serious omission of an important class of society. This section has always been recognised by Ordinances of this

type, even when Nigeria was still a subject country, and that is heads of all our educational institutions. This bill has excluded people like the Principal of the University College, Principals of all the Colleges who have been recognised up till now. I do not know why these people are not included.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I think that the only thing to do to make the Law complete is to add a clause that all bearded people like Chief Olugbade—(Interruptions).

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to say something about the inclusion of an accountant. Nowadays, there are so many kinds of accountants. If it said Chartered Accountant or Certified Accountant, perhaps I would have been able to understand, but when we say an accountant it is rather too wide and it can mean anybody, even my hon. Friend, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, who was an accountant in the Bata Shoe Company. (Laughter).

Mr Chairman, Sir, one other point I would like to get clarified is this; when we say a Minister of Religion or a Minister of a recognised Church or Mosque who is to decide whether the church or the mosque is recognised?

The Minister of Internal Affairs : My answer to Chief Akin-Olugbade is that the proper place to interpret this Clause is the Court. So, if there is any case, I would advise you to go to court and give your knowledge then the Court will give you the proper definition of the Clause.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Clause 4.

Mr O. O. Emene (Aba South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I noticed that the citizenship of many other countries is somewhat discriminatory.

The Chairman : Will the hon. Member please speak out?

Mr Ememe : I said that I noticed that the citizenship of many other countries is discriminatory. Nigeria, is a new nation and may not be an exception to this rule. I

[MR EMEME]
know that in England there is a type of discrimination against the black race as far as citizenship is concerned and I also know that in the United States there is a similar type of discrimination. I want to emphasise here that even though we do not want to retaliate, we must bear in mind that similar discriminatory measures should be applied in this country because this is a black man's country. We will not tolerate any indiscriminate admission of any body from any part of the world into Nigeria as a citizen, because some of them come here only to subvert our Government.

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Izi South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to speak about a provision here in Clause 4 which deals with how a man can become a Nigerian citizen. One thing is very important and that is that there are Nigerians who are working in the Southern Cameroons. According to the plebiscite held recently, the Southern Cameroons have broken away and if that is ratified by the United Nations, it will become a different country altogether. But we have our citizens working in the Territory and it is likely they may have children and these children may be illegitimate ones. There is a way of making illegitimate children legitimate. So I feel there should be a provision by which an illegitimate child could be made legitimate and this is by adoption so that the child will be a Nigerian citizen. If, for example, a student in the United Kingdom happens to get an illegitimate child he can be made legitimate to become a Nigerian citizen.

Also, we have many Nigerians working in neighbouring countries, say Fernando Po. If they get children there and, by one way or the other, they say they are supposed to be Nigerian citizens, then if their parents want them to become Nigerian citizens, they can adopt them and make them Nigerian citizens. So, I feel there should be a provision for this.

Mr M. A. Omisade (Ife Town): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to Section 4 (3) (E) which says that any person who on the 30th day of September, 1960, was a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies by reason of his naturalisation or registration as the case may be in the former Colony or Protectorate of Nigeria, whether before or after the passing of the British Nationality Act, 1948, shall be

entitled to registration as a citizen of Nigeria on application made by him before the 1st day of October, 1962 in the Form C in the Third Schedule to this Ordinance.

I refer to this section because by the British Nationality Act, 1948, persons of South African origin would be included in the list and they would also be British subjects. I would like a provision in this particular section to be included in such a way as to exclude South Africans who, up till to-day, are our declared enemies.

Then subsection 3F and subsections 3F (a), (b) and (c) deal with certain conditions, but they do not deal with the situation where a person of dual citizenship and is of sound mind and desirous of remaining a citizen of Nigeria but is precluded by the laws of the country in which he resides to make a declaration for Nigerian citizenship. There is no such provision in these three subsections (a), (b) and (c) of subsection 3F. I think the Minister of Internal Affairs will consider that.

For instance, I know a man who wants to be a Nigerian citizen but the law of the country where he resides does not allow him to make a declaration. Subsection 3A makes provision for a person of sound mind who wants to remain a Nigerian citizen and is allowed by the laws of that country, but there is no section yet which makes provision for a person of sound mind and aged 21 and is desirous of remaining a Nigerian citizen. I think the Minister should consider that.

The Minister of Internal Affairs: I should like to reply to the hon. Gentleman now. I am not a lawyer but we have some lawyers here and some lawyers there, but from what you have been saying now, I understand that you are quoting wrong law.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 10 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair)

Mr J. A. Taiwo (Oyo North West): Point of Order, Mr Deputy Speaker, an hon. Member is sleeping soundly.

Mr Deputy Speaker: Order, order. The point is appreciated, but I do hope the hon. member will be aware of the fact that some people have different ways of thinking.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the third time.

Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.

ELECTORAL (TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS)
BILL, 1961

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Usman Sarki): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that the Bill entitled The Electoral (Transitional Provisions) Bill, 1961, now be read a second time.

I had hoped that very early after Independence I would be able to bring a completely new Electoral Law before you, and my Ministry is now working on such a Bill, which I may place before the next sitting of this House.

Meanwhile the advent of Independence has made certain parts of the existing Electoral Law out of date and it is to bring it up to date to reflect the new Constitutional position that the present amending legislation is being presented to you. Now, in this Bill, I am asking you to do three things: firstly, to provide for the continuance in force of the present regulations; secondly, to provide for powers to amend them and, thirdly, to provide for the removal of non-Nigerian citizens from the Roll before it is used in any Election.

Of these three, the latter is the one that touches us most constitutionally for, at present, only British subjects or British protected persons may vote. This Bill will change that provision to provide for Nigerian citizens only being on the Electoral Roll. Apart from that, the Bill seeks, in section 3, to authorise the making of Regulations and to provide for the re-enrolment of the 1958 Electoral Regulations and the 1959 Federal Legislative House (Disputed Seats) Regulations as if they had been made under the Bill now being presented.

Section 4 provides for Electoral Registers to be used and compiled. At present, a large clerical section is working at top speed on the Eastern Electoral Register, which will then be published under the authority of the Act now proposed.

Finally, these powers are only sought until 31st December, 1962, when, I hope, there will be a complete new Electoral Law in force. I therefore commend the Bill to hon. Members and trust that they will give it a speedy passage.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

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

Question proposed.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide: Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to seize this opportunity to appeal to the Minister of Internal Affairs to establish a Federal Election Corps. Now, I am happy that this move is only temporary at its initial stage. Those of us who took part in the last federal elections and also who are councillors, during electoral petitions know what we experience and I would not lie to impute motives or to make any attack on any Regional Government or Federal High Court as they should be very fair, but all the same, Federal elections should have a legal outlook. It is only fair that whenever there is a federal election or there is a federal election petition, all such election petitions should be tried by courts instituted and established by the Federal Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not imputing motives, but it is a matter which we should have to consider and we should be very happy both as legislators and councillors and also as good citizens if Federal Courts try federal election petitions. It is in fact the practice in other countries where we have a Federal form of Government.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East): Mr Speaker, Sir, in support of Mr Akinjide's speech, I wish to make it very very clear that the Chairman and the Secretary of the Election Committee should be changed now. They are expatriates. If Nigeria should be independent... (*Interruptions*) Mr Speaker, I beg leave to continue that the Chairman and Secretary of this Commission should be changed.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. I think the hon. Member has already finished his speech and I called upon Mr Adedamola to speak.

Mr A. Adedamola (Abeokuta): Mr Speaker, Sir, I agree with the provision of the law, but I feel very much concerned that it is just a waste of money and energy. Why I say this is that the Minister has given three reasons why the electoral petition provision should be made and has evaded the last paragraph of the memoranda. This means that the Federal Register will be used for the elections to the Eastern Regional House of

[MR ADEDAMOLA]

Assembly, which are likely to be held before the new electoral laws are introduced. I beg to submit that the Western Region has held its elections with the old one; the Northern Region is also electing under the old one. Now that this legislative provision is to be made because of the Eastern Regional election I wonder, Sir, whether the Federal Government will be held responsible for the expenses to be incurred. If this is so then the money to be spent for this election is a complete waste.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clause 1.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. M. Usman Sarki, Sardaunan Bida): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move the Amendment standing in my name that at page C.119, Line 5 at the end add "(2). This Act shall be deemed to have come into force on the 30th day of March, 1961". On original planning it was anticipated that this Bill would have passed into law before the 24th of April, on which date arrangements had been made in the Eastern Region for the revision of the Register. The 24th April was selected primarily because school holidays begin then and the teachers, who make up approximately 90 per cent of the assistant registration officers, will be available at that time in the areas where they teach.

Now, as the Senate will not be able to consider the Bill until after 25th April, any registration in the Eastern Region on the 24th April may lack validity and it is to ensure that there are no doubts regarding the validity of the registration that this Amendment is introduced to give retrospective effect to the Act as from the 30th day of March, 1961, which was the first day of public business of this House.

I therefore beg to move.

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

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 5 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported with an amendment, read the third time and passed.

HIGH COURT OF LAGOS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias): Sir, I rise to move the second reading of the High Court of Lagos (Amendment) Bill.

Hon. Members will remember that yesterday when I made my speech, I told you that as a result of the growth in volume of work being handled by the High Court, Government has found it necessary and desirable for the number of Judges to be increased from six to eight.

This Bill seeks to give effect to that proposal. I think the Bill is non-contentious and I expect that hon. Members will approve without much controversy.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. M. Usman Sarki, Sardaunan Bida): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East): Mr Chairman, Sir, while I support that this Bill be passed now, I humbly feel that it is necessary to say to the Minister of Justice that this country is not very much after the number of Judges, but after people who are honest, who are of the right calibre, who are fair and impartial, and people who will give justice where it belongs. We do not mind whether we have twenty or thirty Judges. What we want in this country is the right man for the job. It is better for this country to have only one Judge rather than twenty who are not honest. (*Interruptions*).

Chief O. B. Akin Olugbade (Egba South) : Mr Chairman Sir, it is becoming a habit in this House for Members to attack indirectly the conduct of Judges, Sir, under Standing Order 25.....

The Chairman : Order, order. We cannot make progress with this noise going on.

Chief Akin Olugbade : I refer to Standing Order 25 for the benefit of my hon. Friend Mr Abii who has never seen a copy of it. I read subsection 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." The point I am driving at is this: the hon. Member refers to honest judges but judges are appointed by the Judicial Service Commission and the Governor-General... (*Loud Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order, order !

Chief Akin Olugbade : The inference, Sir, is that there are dishonest judges but I do not think we are in a position in this House to pass judgment on the conduct of our Judges, except in laid down circumstances.

The Chairman : He has not, I think, specifically commented on the conduct of a Judge. He is, I think, talking as a matter of principle, which I think he can do.

Mr Abii : I thank you very much, Sir. Now, I know that there are some lawyers who cannot understand simple English. I am speaking of who can be appointed as a Judge. I am not talking of any Judge at all and I still maintain that some people, if you judge them very strictly, cannot be appointed as Judges. (*Interruptions*).

Clause 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported without amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the third time.

12 midnight.

Mr R. O. Akinjide (Ibadan South-East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to seize this opportunity to appeal to the Minister of Justice to reduce the number of years when a lawyer could be appointed as a Judge from ten to seven—

Several hon. Members : No, no. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order. There is not much you can say on the third reading, Mr Akinjide. I think the point you are making now should have been made on the second reading.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.

REGISTRATION OF BUSINESS NAMES BILL

Order for second reading read.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill entitled a Bill for an Act to make new provision for the Registration of Firms and Persons carrying on Business under Business Names and for purposes connected therewith be now read a second time. The Bill is non-controversial, and is being promulgated with the agreement of all the three Regional Governments, and, in accordance with the recommendations given to us by the Committee which was appointed to look into ways and methods of helping African Businessmen. In short, it is designed to help Nigerian businessmen, increase our prestige and, on the whole, make us economically stronger.

Sir, I beg to move.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North) : I just want to call the attention of the Chair to one minor mistake under Item 1, clause 2. That is where it says—

"Registrar means the Registrar of Business Names ;"

I think the word "Registrar" there on the first line of page C.124 is mis-spelt, it is spelt "egistrar". I think the capital 'R' is missing.

Clauses 2 to 5 agreed to.

Clause 6.

Mr M. A. Omisade (Ife Town): Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that businessmen or firms has been defined in the definition clause to include—

“any trade, industry, and profession and any occupation carried on for private—”

But Section 6 does not seem to include “any trade, industry or profession carried on for private—” For instance, the proviso to Section 6 Subsection (ii) says that :—

“where two or more individual partners have the same surname the addition of an “s” at the end of that surname shall not of itself render registration necessary;”

For instance if you just say *Dipcharima* even though they are carrying on a business for profit within the definition of Section 2 (i) or if you say Benson—

Several hon. Members : Aye, Aye.

The Chairman : I do not approve of these *Ayes* before the Question is put.

Mr Omisade : Mr Chairman, I think that any business carried on for profit should be included in the list of firms to be registered. Another one which may also be included is if for instance, the *Dipcharima* family is trying to go into business with a view to making a lot of profit. You can say *Dipcharima* and *Dipcharima*, and it will not come within the definition of a firm or a group of individuals to be registered for the purpose of this Bill. I am suggesting that if you want to make a comprehensive Bill truly full, it should include such words or whatever name you may give to it.

Clause 6 agreed to.

Clause 7.

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West) : It is said here that—

“Every firm or individual required under this Act to be registered shall, within twenty-eight days after the firm or individual commences the business—”

My contention here, Sir, is that there are several times when a business or a company starts to operate and one goes to the office of the

Registrar of Companies to get some forms only to be told that there is no form ; and each time one goes to the office one does not get the forms. Yet it is stipulated that the business must be registered within twenty-eight days. I am appealing to the Minister to see to it that forms are available for companies and firms who want to register.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zana the hon. Bukar Dipcharima) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am told by many people both in Lagos and in the Regions during my tours that my officials are courteous, anxious to work and in an effort to make the thing even easier we are decentralising the whole business so that people can go and get things done in their own Regions.

Clause 7 agreed to.

Clauses 8 to 20 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported, without amendment, read the third time and passed.

SHERIFFS AND CIVIL PROCESS BILL

Order for second reading read.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Sheriffs and Civil Process Ordinance be read a second time. As I said yesterday, this Bill seeks to achieve two purposes. The first is to transfer the duties, at present performed by the Inspector-General of Police as Sheriff for the whole of the Federation, to a new officer to be designated Deputy Sheriff. It also seeks to ensure that this officer should be under the control of the courts.

The second object of this Bill is to create a new salary scale for bailiffs who serve under this sheriff. The third point is that this Bill does not apply to the Northern Region for administrative reasons. The two Regions, East and West, have agreed to this Bill.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation : Sir, I beg to second.

Mr E. C. Akwiwu (Orlu South East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I will be very brief. This Bill is very welcome. Many of us who have any connection with the administration of justice in

this country have felt for a very long time that something must be done about our bailiffs. There have been many cases, Sir, where judgments of courts have been impossible to enforce because of the tricks of the bailiffs, and the situation became much worse when it became difficult to discover the particular head of department responsible for them. Now that the matter is brought within the jurisdiction of the court itself, we do hope, Sir, that the court authorities would show more interest than the police officials have done.

Secondly, Sir, if I may cite an example, it has been our experience in the past that messengers were raised to the responsible position of bailiff. The unfortunate thing is that when you have a man who has not enough money to look as prosperous as others handling several hundreds of pounds belonging to other people, he soon fails to differentiate between what does not belong to himself and what belongs to himself. In the end, Sir, the position is that money belonging to well-meaning and innocent citizens, judgment creditors, is misused right and left, and all that it ends up in is the poor fellow going to gaol and the man who has gone to all sorts of expense to make his claim losing all the same.

So, Mr Speaker, I welcome this Bill. In conclusion I support it, and, finally, I urge it upon the powers that be, and those to whose lot it falls to administer this law, to really make it worthwhile now that we have changed from the police to the law courts.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja): Mr Speaker, Sir, although the job of the bailiff is being taken over from police officers, I wish to say that in the normal exercise of their duties there should be still some form of protection for the bailiffs. I have in practice noted cases where some people are very hostile to these bailiffs in the execution of their duty.

The other aspect is this. In the new set up, I am sure that while the older ones will be retained, younger men with qualifications will be employed and their conditions of service will be improved. In the past the Judicial Department has always been one of the dumping houses. The clerks there normally do far more work than most clerks do in the civil service. Their type of work is very special and I hope that especially now that we have the able Minister of Justice their conditions of service will be improved.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to thank the Minister of Justice for introducing a scheme to improve the conditions of service of our bailiffs. In the past the conditions of service of these bailiffs have always been based on the principle of paying them for the number of summonses served. But I would like to ask the Minister of Justice to see to it that the improvement in the conditions of service of these bailiffs is not made an occasion of bailiffs going to court and saying "not served". That has happened in many cases before.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General: Mr Speaker, Sir, I assure the two hon. Members that these matters are very much present to the minds of the Chief Justice of the High Court and myself. (*Hear, hear.*)

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South): Sir, I see that under Clause 2, subsection 2, the Northern Region is exempted and that the Inspector-General of Police will still continue as the Sheriff in the Northern Region.

The hon. Minister of Justice made a passing reference to this clause in his speech yesterday but he did not, as far as I can remember, give us any reason why the Northern Region is not following the example of the Federal territory and the Western and Eastern Regions. I do not know, perhaps it is difficult to find a capable man to do the job. But I hope this is not another way of trying to exclude professionally trained people of the South from occupying posts of this nature in the Northern Region. At present it is the practice that barristers and solicitors of Southern Region origin are not appointed as magistrates in the North, and not as crown counsel for that matter. We are always crying 'one Nigeria' and I think it is high time the North put a stop to discrimination against professionals from different regions of the Federation of Nigeria.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 5 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported, without amendment, read the third time and passed.

NIGER DELTA DEVELOPMENT
BOARD BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that a bill for an act to make further provisions for the Niger Delta Development Board and for other purposes connected therewith, be now read a second time.

Sir, this Bill has got a long history behind it. Hon. Members can remember that this Niger Delta Development Board came as a result of the Minorities Commission recommendation and that recommendation was accepted by the Nigerian leaders at different constitutional conferences in London and in Lagos. It is non-contentious. We have a provision in the Constitution which provided for the Niger Delta Development Board. And as all hon. Members are already aware of the regulations under which the Board was established and started working, I do not think there is any need for me to go into the detailed provisions in the Bill. I have no doubt that Members who come from the areas concerned will be very interested to contribute but I would merely like to say that this is a welcome Bill and I hope that it will go out to give satisfaction to the people who live in those areas.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I said, there is no need to go into the details about this Bill and so I beg to move.

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

Question proposed.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): Mr Speaker, Sir, in welcoming this Bill I cannot help remarking that this is a sad commentary on the uneven distribution of wealth, uneven distribution of development in this country and also the faultiness of the constitutional set-up of this country that the people of the Niger Delta who, some time ago, brought the torch of civilisation to the hinterland. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker: Order, order!

Mr Briggs: I am sure the Minister of Finance will support me because he also is in the Niger Delta. I was saying that people who took the torch of civilisation to the hinterland are the people who owing to their backwardness are now marked out for special care and development by the Federal Government. But, be that as it may, we welcome this Bill and when it comes to the Committee Stage we will criticise it in detail. But let no one make a mistake that if this Bill is passed, if the setting up of this Niger Delta Development Board is intended to fob us out of a demand for a state, they are mistaken. If they think that it is designed to take us away from further demanding our own state, I tell them that they are making a mistake. (*Hear, hear*). The demand for a state will go on for as long as we have life.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member is speaking on constitutional matters. Well, this Bill is for a development board.

Mr Briggs: Yes, we will go on until we get our own state. I must have to assure you all that no force under heaven can challenge the combined will of a people.

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw): Mr Speaker, Sir, the result of the establishment of this Board is the hard work of some of us in that area and the help given to us by the Prime Minister, our able Prime Minister, and some of our leaders in this country. This will assure the country and its people that the Prime Minister is a capable man and is a man who thinks of the welfare of this country. He feels that the people of this country should go *pari-passu*, that is to say, that if one section of the country should be developed, the backward areas should be developed also. I am inclined to believe, Sir, that what Mr Briggs said is true. When the British people came into this country they first had contact with the Niger Delta people and for certain obvious reasons they left us to improve the hinterland. Now, we are very happy—(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order, order. There is too much noise made on my right and I think it should stop.

Mr Ezonbodor: I am very happy, Sir, that this Board has been established for the entire development of the area.

While doing this I would like to say that the people there want total type of planning, and not partial type of planning. They do not want to see one part being developed while the other part is left to suffer. We have also seen that the Headquarters of this Board has been located in Port Harcourt. We were expecting that this Board should be located in the heart of the place. And, Sir, we are seeing that certain things are happening, things which are detrimental to our own interest, like the oil refinery which is now located in Port Harcourt. We of that area were expecting that the oil refinery would have been located in the heart of the Ijaw area because it is there oil has been discovered in Commercial quantity, than anywhere else in the country so far. We are losing much by this sort of treatment; for example, no royalties and dues from shipments. *(Interruptions).*

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I heard somebody saying that this is the noisiest Parliament. He is actually contributing to the noise by speaking at all.

Mr Ezonbodor : We are very happy that this House has passed the Mid-West Motion. If this had not been so we would continue to have certain doubts whether the Western Regional Government would be co-operating to see that this Board functions well. I can still remember the statement made in London by the Leader of the Action Group, and that made in this country

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I think, Sir, that we have passed the Motion in this House to the effect that the Mid-West State will be created and this part of the country being referred to is not part of the Western Region as such. It is part of the Mid-West area.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member has touched that point but only slightly and I think he has left it.

Mr Ezonbodor : He made a statement in which he said it would be a derogation of *status quo* for the Government to establish a Board while the Regional Government is taking the interest of the people. We resented this statement as a dangerous and wicked one by the Leader of the Opposition whose Government has been in power in the Western Region for many years but totally neglected the area while improving his Yoruba areas. We advocated and sought a way to develop the

area to co-exist as equals with the rest of the people in this country. We are very happy that this Board will be taken over by the Midwest Government which I am sure will seek the interest of the people. We are not happy that this Board is an advisory one and I, therefore, appeal to the Government to consider giving executive power to the Niger Delta Development Board. What sort of advice are they going to give them without executive power? Executive power should be given to the Board in order that anything we decide upon in this House can be carried out by the Board.

Sir, the creation of a fourth Region in this country does not stop any of the Governments from improving that area and it does not obstruct the functions of the Niger Delta Board. What we feel is that the Board should be taken seriously and sufficient fund of money, as the Governor-General said, should be provided to see that the area is developed without which we are assuring you that the country will not be at peace. *(Interruptions).*

Mr Speaker : Order, order. This noise merely wastes our time.

Mr Ezonbodor : Mr Speaker, I have to thank the Prime Minister again for the able way he took to see that an able Secretary is employed for this Board. I have discussed with the Secretary of this Board and from the points he adduced and from the practical experience he has, and the love he has for that area, I have seen that this Secretary will do everything in the interest of these people.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is another point I want to comment upon. It is provided in the Constitution that the Chairman and the Secretary should be full-time employees. But I have seen that the Chairman is on a part-time job while the Secretary is on a full-time one. We are saying that the Chairman should be on a full-time job also.

Sir, I have seen that in section 4 one person is appointed by the Western Ijaw Divisional Council to represent the Western Ijaws. At the moment we are trying to see that District Councils are established for the people so that if a law is made empowering only the Divisional Council to appoint somebody to be member of that Board. This will not be a proper channel by which the people would nominate their true representatives. It will be undemocratic. We

[MR EZONBODOR] have sixteen Local Council areas and representatives from these Local Council areas should select the members of this Board. I have to thank the whole country, Sir, for the way they have co-operated with us, excluding, of course, the Action Group.

We want to know now, Sir; since the Mid-West State will be created, what will be the position of those members who are now selected from the Regional Government to come to this Board? Supposing another political party, I do not specifically mean the N.C.N.C., comes into power in that area, what will be the position of that person? It is stated here that the member is expected to remain in office for five years. There is no provision to say that if the Divisional Council is dissatisfied with the activities of that person, or if the Divisional Council passes a vote of no confidence, or when they want to withdraw somebody, a member of that Board, what procedure to be followed. We are saying that safeguards should be provided in order that if the Divisional Council is taken over by another political party the selection of that member should be done by that political party.

I remember, too, that Mr Briggs said something about the C.O.R. State, and the Action Group have been preaching something about the C.O.R. State. We of the Niger Delta are not in favour of the C.O.R. State. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order. One would expect that particularly at this hour hon. Members will be sober but it seems to me that people are rather excited for practically no reason.

Mr P. E. Ekanem : On a point of Order, Mr Speaker; the issue of the creation of States in this country is not the subject matter of this Head and I think that the hon. Member is very irrelevant.

Mr Speaker : Order. The issue can only be raised by filing a Motion and discussing the Motion in the House. I think the farther away the hon. Member goes from the issue of the creation of States the better for the standard of debate.

Mr Ezonbodor : Mr Speaker, Sir, the C.O.R. State is not here, but I was trying to reply to the statement made by Mr Briggs that the people of that area are advocating a C.O.R. State in his Midwest motion speech.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : On a point of Order, Sir, the hon. Gentleman is quoting me wrongly. I never mentioned anything about the C.O.R. State. I said that they will not take us away from the agitation for a State.

Mr Ezonbodor : Mr Speaker, he has himself agreed that the people of that area do not favour a C.O.R. state, and they will never get the C.O.R. state, so that there should be no misrepresentation of matters to this country that the people of that area favour C.O.R. state. What we have been persistently advocating and fighting for is the creation of a separate Rivers State.

Mr Speaker : Order. I think any further interruption, unnecessarily, will have to be dealt with specially.

Mr Ezonbodor : Since we have got our Mid-West State and we have the men who will safeguard the interests of our people, my own people are satisfied that we are included in the Mid-West State in the meantime until such time we shall have our own Rivers State.

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West) : Point of order, Sir.

Mr Speaker : There is no breach of Order in the hon. Members' speech.

Mr Ezonbodor : Sir, there is one point more I would like to make and that is, as the headquarters has been located at Port Harcourt, the sub-headquarters should come within the heart of the place, in order to make the Board to work well. I do agree that at this moment the Board should temporarily remain in Port Harcourt, as the headquarters, but between the Western Delta Province and the Eastern Delta Province there should be a link. We have certain places like Yenagoa Agbere, Patani or Bomadi which should be fixed for the location of the headquarters. (*Interruptions.*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, when I come to the items, I shall say more about it. I will not take too much of the time of the House. The only thing I would like to repeat is that I wish to congratulate the Prime Minister and the Governor-General and all our Leaders who went to London—(*Interruptions*)—

Mr Speaker : Order, order, order. It is impossible for me to hear what the hon. Member is saying as long as Members continue to make these noises. Likewise, it is impossible for me to pick out a point of order or to make a

decision on the point of order that Members are raising. So unless Members are quite we are really getting nowhere.

Mr Ezonbodor : What I was trying to say is that the Borad is an outcome of a struggle by the people, and not only that, by the help we got from the Prime Minister, the Governor-General Dr the hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe, Dr M. I. Okpara, the Eastern Premier, some of our leaders (not the Action Group) and our British friends or well-wishers who, during the London Constitutional Conference, under seemingly insurmountable obstacles had to see that this Niger Delta Board is created.

Not only that. The Prime Minister is interested and has taken over the administration of this Board himself in order that this Board is administered in the best interests of the people, and we are praying that the functions of the Board should be fulfilled in such a way that the development of the area should be carried out well so that we too should be happy in our independence.

This section of the people, the Niger Delta people, must go abreast with others. There is no gainsaying the fact that it is the British people who came for the Minorities Commission initiated in their own recommendation that this Niger Delta Board should be created for these people. I would like everybody to co-operate with us to see that this Board is developed to the best interests of the people.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am sure that if you do remove the headquarters to the home town of Mr Ezonbodor, the chairman and the secretary will be so drunk with illicit gin—(Laughter.)

Mr Speaker : Order, order. It seems to me as though some hon. Members are not willing to make any more useful contribution to the Bill, and so perhaps it is better to put the Question.

Question, That the Bill be read a second time, put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clause 1.

Mr M. A. Omisade (Ife Town) : Mr

Chairman, Sir, section 1 reads—"It shall be of application in the area defined in subsection (6) of section 4 of the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council 1960". It would have been better if this section had been drafted to read that "This Act may be read along with the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council section 14". This is very important in that there is no section throughout the whole Bill which lays down the functions of the Board.

If you look at section 3 of the Bill, it mentions as the heading there, "Established functions and Incorporation of the Board", but there is nothing in the Bill itself which states the functions of the Board. But in the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, section 4 (a), "The Board shall cause the Niger Delta to be surveyed in order to ascertain what measures are required to promote its physical development".

There is nothing in the Bill which says anything about the functions of the Board in regard to the physical development of the area. Mr Chairman, I would suggest that section 1 be read as one with section 14 of the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, the Chairman and the Secretary of this Board were appointed sometime in April last year, and I wonder why this Act should be made to come into operation on the 1st of April, 1961, when the Secretary and the Chairman had been appointed since 1960. Under what powers were these people appointed since last year? I would require that this Act be made to take effect from the 1st of April, 1960, when these people had been working, if this Bill is not a mockery of the people of the Niger Delta Area.

Clause 2, agreed to.

Clauses 3 and 4 agreed to.

Clause 5.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : It is noticed that the tenure of office of the Members is five years. The Board is to last on the whole 10 years. I would suggest that instead of five years, it should be three years.

Mr A. Opia (Aboh) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I will ally myself with the last speaker, in that

the life of the Council reflects the membership of the Board and all Councils have three years as their duration.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clause 6.

Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East): Sir, I refer to vacation of office. First, by resignation and then, secondly if the Minister is satisfied that the Chairman or any Member of the Board (a) has been absent from two successive meetings of the Board without permission of the Board, or (b) he is incapacitated by physical or mental illness, or (c) is otherwise unable to or unfit to discharge the functions of a Member.

Now, if you look at paragraph 2, subsection (a) you will see that it is possible for a member not to get notice of meetings and this may be so through no fault of his. I think in such a case the Member will be punished unduly if his appointment is terminated, when he did not receive notice to attend the meeting of the Board. I know that that is an area of amphibians, but even the proposed amphibian planes may not be able to serve notices to reach the members in time.

Clause 6 agreed to.

Clause 7.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): Sir, Clause 7 (b) reads, "Upon the death, resignation or termination of the appointment of the Chairman, the Minister is to appoint a person to be temporary chairman for a period not exceeding one year, as the Governor-General may determine. The total term of office now is 10 years, and to appoint a temporary chairman for one year, I think is too much and I am moving—and I do not know whether the Prime Minister will make a statement—but I am moving that instead of one year it should be three months. The temporary period for which a chairman should be appointed should be three months instead of one year and I hope that the Prime Minister will make a statement on that.

The Chairman: You should have written that you wanted to move otherwise I shall not accept the Motion.

Clause 7 agreed to.

Mr A. Opia (Aboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, Clause 8 allows the Chairman and three members to form a quorum. I feel that the number

is too small. There should be at least the Chairman and four members.

Clause 8 agreed to.

Clauses 9 to 13 agreed to.

Clause 14.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South): Mr Chairman, Sir, quite recently I have looked through this Act from the first page to the last I think when a Board of this nature is set up the functions that such a Board should perform should be specifically laid down and defined. The section of the Act where something is said about the powers is Clause 14, but the power is merely the affixing of the common seal, which shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman or some other member of the Board.

But what is the power? Where is the power? The only function that one can see in this Bill is the function to enter upon and survey and carry out investigations on land, and dig or bore a hole to a sub-soil, or to clear any area of such land or cut out any boundaries of such land. If the powers are limited to surveying land, boring holes and sub-soils, as shown under section 17, and also to mortgage lease or otherwise alienate and then affix the common seal, what is the function? Why bring an Act for this sort of thing?

I would request the Prime Minister to see to it that the functions of this Board are regulated. We have the Coal Corporation, we have the Railway Corporation, we have the Ports Authority. We have seen several Corporations in the Regions—we have the Development Corporation, the Finance Corporation. All of them have specific functions to perform. What are the functions of this particular Board? Nothing, apart from the constitution, the Chairman, the Secretary, the members and their salaries.

I would request the Prime Minister to give this thing some serious thought because all that the Chairman can do is to sign documents and affix the common seal. What happens if the Board measures a whole area intended for the Government in the Delta area and conveys it to a foreign company?

12.50 a.m.

The Prime Minister: Well, some Members do not seem to be very serious over these matters, and some of them do not seem to

regard this Bill as a very important one, especially for the development of the Niger Delta. I am very sorry that the last speaker seemed to play about with the provisions of the Bill.

Of course the Board has started functioning already. We know the powers which we discussed at great length with the Regional Governments concerned and this House may also be aware of the exhaustive regulations which were drawn up some time ago, and these regulations we now want to invoke by the passing of this Bill. So it is wrong, Sir, for my hon. Friend Chief Olugbade, to say that the functions of the Board are not clearly defined.

I have, of course, listened to all the points made by hon. Members, especially by Mr Briggs, and, I think, by another hon. Member on this side, about the length of time for which people will sit on the Board. If you set up a Board to develop a difficult part of the country like the Niger Delta, I think they need about a minimum of five years in which to do it, because in three years it will be very difficult for them to plan and to see that their work is executed. Therefore, I think that five years is just a minimum period. (*Hear, hear.*)

Clauses 14 to 27 agreed to.

Clause 28 :

Mr W. Briggs (Degema): This clause describes the powers of the Minister in relation to the Board. In my opinion, Mr Chairman, the whole thing is too vague. It is too vague to be taken seriously and until something specific is done, it is very highly suspicious as to what actual powers the Minister will have over the Board. We have been saying that the function of the Board is vague, and when we remember that it is the Minister by whose grace these people are appointed to the Board, and that his power over them is also vague, it becomes very suspicious as to the strength of the Board itself.

I therefore am asking the Prime Minister to take note of it.

The Prime Minister : The hon. Member has just said that the Members of the Board will be appointed at the pleasure of the Minister concerned. The local Councils get together and select people who will serve on this Board, and members of the Board are not

appointed solely by the Minister but the Regional Governments concerned are also consulted.

The Minister, of course, must have some power to direct the Board, and because the Federal Government is financing the scheme it is only right that the Board should not be allowed to go out of its way to do what is not in the best interests.

Clauses 28 and 29 agreed to.

Clause 30 :

Dr P. U. Okeke : Mr Chairman, I just want to point out one word in section 30, subsection (1). "No suit against the Board or any servant of the Board for anything done under any Act". **Under any Act.** Now does this mean under *any Act* or under *this Act*?

Mr W. Briggs : Section 30 subsection 2 requires service of civil process on the Board and the Board here is in the official clause defined as the Niger Delta Development Board for which no human being—(*Interruption*). I am suggesting for the consideration of the Prime Minister, or the Minister responsible, that service be made on the Chairman, who is a more substantial person than just vaguely "the Board".

Clauses 30 and 31 agreed to.

Clause 32 :

Mr W. Briggs : Mr Chairman, this is a restriction on the process of execution. It says, "In any suit against the Board no execution or attachment or process in the nature thereof shall be issued against the Board, but any sums of money which may by the judgment of the court be awarded against the Board shall, subject to any directions given by the court where notice of appeal has been given by the Board in respect of the said judgment, be paid by the Board from the funds of the Board." Which means, in effect, that there would be no execution on the Board's property at all.

If the court gives judgment against the Board you cannot execute that judgment on the property of the Board. You will have to take money out of the funds of the Board. What if the funds are not enough? It means that there is no remedy; there is no remedy in law if the person has succeeded. I would like the Prime Minister to make a statement

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[MR BRIGGS]
about that. It is clear here, Sir, that that is the position.

The Prime Minister : Mr Chairman, it is clear there to me. I am a lawyer myself. (*Laughter*). And it is very clear to me, only I cannot really understand the point the hon. Member is making. Honestly, I find it difficult to follow the hon. Member, Mr Chairman. I cannot understand it at all. His colleagues, the other lawyer Members of this House all look at him with surprise !

Clause 32 agreed to.

Clause 33 agreed to.

Clause 34.

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, Clause 34 (2) states, "The Minister shall, as soon as may be after receipt of any annual report, lay a copy of the report before both Houses of Parliament". In this case it means the Western and Eastern Regional Parliaments.

I wonder why a copy of this Report has to be sent to this House. We are here passing

a Bill for the establishment of the Delta—
(*Some hon. Members : Sit down*).

An hon. Member : I am moderate when I interrupt. How many Members are in this House to talk nonsense? (*Laughter*). I wish that the hon. Speaker will use his discretion to see that anybody who does not talk sense will not be recognized by him any more. (*Laughter*).

The Chairman : Order, order. That is for me to decide; and certainly not for the hon. Gentleman.

Clauses 34 to 36 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported without amendment, read the third time and passed.

And it being after 6 p.m. on Thursday, Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 4 (10).

Adjourned at 1 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Friday, 14th April, 1961

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the House to the fact that certain newspapers, either deliberately or through gross carelessness, misreport debates in this honourable House. I refer, for instance, to a publication in one of the newspapers published in Lagos on the 13th April, 1961, in which the following report appears in connexion with my speech introducing the Second Reading of the Personal Income Tax (Lagos) Bill in Parliament on Tuesday night—

“Speaking on the Personal Income Tax (Lagos) Bill, the Minister of Finance announced that people with an annual income ranging between £24 to £50 would also pay income rate. People with an annual income of £24 will pay 6s; £30, 8s; £30-£35, 10s; £35-£40, 15s and £45-£50, 18s.”

Sir, the question of Personal Income Tax is something very dear to the hearts of every citizen of this country, and I should have reflected that in reporting such a matter the newspaper reporter would have ensured that he did it with the fullest sense of responsibility, knowing very well the extreme delicacy of the matter. If the newspaper reporter had taken the trouble either to consult the Bills laid before the House and previously published in the *Gazette*, or to take accurate notes of my speech in Parliament, he would have realised that my quotation of the rates, which he has so distorted, was in reply to a false allegation by an hon. Member of the House to the effect that under the Income Tax Ordinance (Cap. 85), at present in use, all males in Lagos earning incomes under £60 *per annum* are exempt from from income tax.

In refuting the hon. Member's allegation, I said, among other things (and here I quote my original speech)—

“Before I conclude my speech, I shall endeavour to answer briefly the misinformed criticism of an hon. Member who, in spite of the force of the fact presented by a comparison of figures, stubbornly insists on misleading the House by asserting that, under the present legislation, males with incomes not exceeding £60 enjoy exemption from tax. I do not know where the hon. Member obtained his figure from; but it is certainly not from the Income Tax Ordinance (Cap. 85); but for the information of the House I shall repeat the rates of tax exactly as they are imposed on the lower income group under the First Schedule of the present Ordinance. The tax on total income not exceeding £24 is six shillings. If it exceeds £24, but not £30, the tax is eight shillings. Where it exceeds £30, but not £35, the tax payable is ten shillings. Where the income exceeds £35, but not £50, the tax is twelve shillings. Incomes in excess of £40, but not exceeding £45, yield fifteen shillings. Where the income exceeds £45, but not £50, the tax is eighteen shillings. And where the income exceeds £50, but not £150, the tax is 4½d on every pound. Need I comment further on these self-evident figures? Do they not clearly and sufficiently give the lie to the deliberately misleading assertion by the hon. Member that males with incomes under £60 are at present exempt from tax in the Federal territory of Lagos?”

There the quotation ends.

Sir, this is not the first time that debates in the House have been distorted by newspapers, and I would very seriously urge that this House should condemn, in no uncertain terms, the rather light-hearted approach of some newspaper reporters to their sacred duty of disseminating information, especially about proceedings in such an august assembly as this Federal House of Parliament.

In a Press release issued to the Press (including the very newspaper that made this wrong report) immediately after my last Budget Speech, the Federal Board of Inland Revenue made it quite clear under the heading of *Income Rate* that all persons whose income did not exceed £300 would be liable only to the income rate ranging from 10s *per annum* to £3 where income tax exceeds £203.

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

It was only to be expected, therefore, that the newspaper reporter would have taken enough care in such an important matter to recall that only a few days earlier, the statement of the position, as envisaged in the new legislation, was clearly released to his newspaper among others. I now earnestly hope that the reporter will have the good sense to make an accurate and prominent report of this correction in the Press in order to correct the wrong information which he had already passed on to his readers in connexion with income tax in Lagos.

I should also like to take this opportunity to refute the suggestion made in the *Daily Express* of the 13th of April, that the figure of eight and a half million pounds which I gave in my Budget Speech as the increase in the Federal Government's ordinary revenue, was misleading. The repayments by statutory and non-statutory bodies, to which I believe the special correspondent of the *Daily Express* was referring, do not constitute special once-for-all payments of the type which I classify as special revenue. They represent the repayment of loans which will be spread over many years. They are bound to be a continuing feature of our public revenues and I consider that it is perfectly proper and sound for me to treat them as ordinary recurrent revenue.

The same special correspondent has also exaggerated unreasonably the significance of the eight and a half million pounds gap in the financing of the Federal Economic Programme. This is nothing new. The amount is in fact smaller than that brought to the attention of this House in previous years, and in relation to the overall cost of the Federal Economic Programme, it is insignificant. The fact that anticipated under-expenditure will reduce the gap is also not remarkable. It is the common experience of countries operating development plans of the scope of the Federal Government's, that performance lags a little behind estimate. I can assure the House that, if the Government had confined the current Programme strictly within the limit of the resources which were estimated to be firmly available at each annual review, far less would have been achieved. We on this side believe that the gap is of a size which can be tolerated with complete safety.

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I do hope that the corrections will be made by the representatives of the Press concerned. I warn him that if he does not do so, then the permission for his attendance in the House may be revoked. He should not do that again. (*Applause*).

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1959-60) AND
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1960-61)
(No. 2) BILL (SECOND READING)

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move "That, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 17 (1), the day appointed for the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (1959-60) Bill and the Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61) (No. 2) Bill be brought forward from Saturday, 22nd April, to to-morrow". Sir I beg to move.

Mr J. C. Obande (Minister of State) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that in every meeting of the House, the Members of this House are deprived of their rights in respect of fiscal measures. At every meeting of this House when Supplementary Estimates are brought, Members of this House complain that there should not be so many Supplementary Estimates, but the Government continue to do the same thing year in and year out. In addition to that, they are even deprived of the opportunities and advantages which we have under the regulations of this House, under the Standing Orders of this House. Fiscal measures are very important things to the country and we should be able to scrutinize these Estimates so that we may be able to express considered opinion upon them, but each time that these things are brought, they are rushed through, and I think it is very unfair that all these things should be rushed through in that manner. This is a Budget Meeting, but everything is being curtailed, the Estimates itself, the main Estimates which we come to consider are being curtailed. Members would like to speak and they cannot speak. Supplementary Estimates are brought belatedly and Members are not even going to be allowed to speak on them in the way they should. I think this is wrong, Mr Speaker.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Speaker, Sir, the trouble with my hon. Friend is that he complains about things that he can only imagine in his head and nothing else. The fact, Sir, is that when I made the statement about the business of this House up to the 20th instance Mr Speaker will remember that the Opposition agreed with the statement I made on the floor of this House. Certainly my hon. Friend was absent and he was thinking of how he will distill illicit gin at Ijebu-Ode. (Laughter).

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : On point of order. Mr Speaker, Chief Ayo Rosiji is an Egba man and he does not belong to the waterside in Sapele where illicit gin is brewed. (Prolonged laughter).

Mr Speaker : Order. I am afraid I will not allow a repetition of the noise which was made last night this morning.

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I submit Sir, that it is improper to accuse an hon. Member of committing an offence. The Minister of Finance says that the hon. Chief Rosiji is distilling illicit gin. It is an offence punishable under the law of this country and it is highly improper that the Minister of Finance and the Leader of the House should make such an accusation on the floor of this House.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members know very well that the Minister is not so serious.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank God that my hon. Friend will not succeed in taking me to the Customary Court in Ishan. Sir, my hon. Friend made the point that fiscal measures are guillotined in this House, I must say, Sir, that it is most untrue because adequate time is provided for the House to debate these fiscal measures and in bringing the Motion before the House, I stand to do only one thing, that is to bring the date of the second reading to tomorrow. That does not mean that it will not be fully debated. All I can say, Sir, is that if my hon. Friends of the Front Bench will only be prepared to attend the meetings of this House regularly, the business of this House will be properly done and accelerated. (Hear, hear).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved ; That, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 17 (1), the day appointed for the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (1959-60) Bill and the Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61) (No. 2) Bill be brought forward from Saturday, 22nd April, to tomorrow.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that, tomorrow, notwithstanding the provisions of any Standing Order—(i) The House shall sit from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m. and from 9 p.m. onwards; (ii) The Proceedings in Committee of Supply shall be interrupted at 11.45 a.m. and Proceedings on the next item on the Order Paper entered upon; (iii) The debate on Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (1959-60) Bill and the Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61) (No. 2) Bill may be resumed; the necessary period for the Second Reading of these two Bills shall be deemed to have been thus complied with; and, when read the second time, the Committee stages of the Bills shall be taken and shall be concluded and the Bills read the third time, and the Resolutions on Head 601 (Loans), Head 602 (Highways and Bridges) and Head 605 (Other Capital Expenditure) of the Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1960-61, shall be agreed to. Sir, I beg to move.

Mr J. C. Obande (Minister of State) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Chief A. Rosiji (Egba East) : I do wish that the hon. Minister of Finance, when he moves a Motion like this will give us his reasons for trying to disturb the Standing Orders. We are not rubber stamps here when we can just cry "aye, aye" on anything he says here. He should let us know what his reasons are, then we shall be able to consider what he is talking about. At the moment, he gives us no reasons. Is it in the paper?

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East) : May I add to what my hon. Friend has said. I think it is a mockery of Parliament and a negation of Standing Orders if the Leader of this House moves a Motion seeking to make nonsense of the Standing Orders without offering any reasons at all. It is not sufficient for the hon.

[CHIEF ENAHORO]

Minister to suggest that when he made a business statement, it was not opposed. The Minister knows that he must come forward to this House and present a formal motion of this nature. This is the time to oppose any suggestions he may have in respect of the business of the House. I do not think it is proper at all that the Minister should just get up and read at great speed a motion in this House without offering any reasons at all. What reasons does anyone reading *Hansard* find from it? The Minister knows as well as we do, Sir, that our *Hansard* goes to all Parliaments in the Commonwealth and outside and I think we will be made to appear fools and as my Friend says "rubber stamps" if we just pass a motion in this House without any reasons at all being given. I suggest that it is time the Minister brought an end to this practice. He did a lot of it last year and I do not think it should continue.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry that my hon. Friends cannot find reasons for the Motion themselves. I thought that this Parliament had developed to a stage that people like my two hon. Friends I am just quoting, who claim to be academicians and intelligensias should be able to find reasons for things that are self-explanatory. There is no point in belabouring a Motion that is self-evident. My hon. Friends have asked on the Floor of this House time and again, even this morning, that sufficient time be given to them to debate these fiscal measures and it is quite clear from the Motion, Sir, that item (i) there, that the House will sit from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and my hon. Friend, Chief Enahoro, knows that on Saturdays the House normally sits from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and the fact that the time is extended to 1 p.m. is to give you enough time which you have been clamouring for. What other reasons do you want me to give you? Certainly, you have to go back to your school and ask your teachers to give you your school fees back if you are not able to understand simple things like these.

Question put and agreed to.

Ordered : That, tomorrow, notwithstanding the provisions of any Standing Order—

(i) The House shall sit from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m. and from 9 p.m. onwards ;

(ii) The Proceedings in Committee of Supply shall be interrupted at 11.45 a.m. and Proceedings on the next item on the Order Paper entered upon ;

(iii) The debate on Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (1959-60) Bill and the Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61) (No. 2) Bill may be resumed ; the necessary period for the Second Reading of these two Bills shall be deemed to have been thus complied with ; and, when read the second time, the Committee stages of the Bills shall be taken and shall be concluded and the Bills read the third time, and the Resolutions on Head 601 (Loans), Head 602 (Highways and Bridges) and Head 605 (Other Capital Expenditure) of the Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1960-61, shall be agreed to."

ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1961-62) BILL

(SECOND ALLOTTED DAY): *Considered in Committee of Supply.*

House in Committee.

HEAD 30—MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Question, That £313,010 for Head 30—Ministry of Economic Development—stand part of the Schedule.

The Minister of Economic Development (Hon. J. C. Obande) : Mr Chairman, I rise to give Members an account of the large and varied amount of work being carried out by my Ministry.

On the Economic side, the Economic Planning Unit, consisting of economists loaned by the Ford Foundation and Nigerian economists, are working full time on the preparation of the next Development Plan for the Federal Government. They are also assessing the various trends in the economy in the closest consultation with their opposite numbers in the Regional Governments and under the guidance of the Economic Adviser to the Federal Government in order to prepare a national framework for 1962-67 which will harmonize the Federal and Regional Governments' development plans. This consultation at regular monthly meetings of the Joint Planning Committee will produce for the

consideration of the National Economic Council a national framework for the next years, which for the first time, has been closely co-ordinated. This study, built up by our planning effort will embrace every aspect of the nation's economy so as to enable the Federal Government and the National Economic Council to assess the priorities for our work in the next 5-year Plan. I am confident that the full value of this necessary groundwork will be apparent when, in due course, this House has the opportunity to debate the next Development Plan for the Federal Government.

Economic planning is dependent on good statistics, both to provide a basis on which to make decisions and, what is equally important, to evaluate the effect of decisions, once they are taken. I am, therefore, making a most determined effort to strengthen the staff of the Office of Statistics with expert advisers loaned under technical assistance schemes, whose task it will be to re-organise this important office and to assist in the training of the growing Nigerian staff. As Members are aware, it has been decided that a nation-wide population census will be held in May 1962, and preparations for this vast undertaking are being pressed ahead most vigorously.

The training of our human resources is another important part of our economic planning, and it has been decided that a Manpower Board will be established to advise and plan the future manpower requirements of all sectors of the economy. In the initial stages, it will be necessary to rely on assistance from abroad to help us in the important work of manpower planning, and it is hoped that the necessary experts will be made available through technical assistance arrangements.

Sometimes, my Ministry is criticised for being responsible only for co-ordinating the work or other Ministries. I do not accept this criticism as valid but, of course, there are occasions when co-ordination, and perhaps some guidance, is absolutely essential in the national interest. The case of the Niger Dams Project comes readily to mind. This tremendous scheme, which is already exciting the interest of many of our friends abroad, is a multi-purpose project, affecting many interests throughout the nation. For example, the scheme will have a great impact on our

power resources, navigation on the River Niger, control of the waters of the Niger, irrigation and agricultural development. Co-ordination in a scheme such as this is vital and I am pleased to be able to inform the House that the culmination of so much of this work is almost at hand and the Final Report on the scheme, prepared by our Consultants and which I understand is very favourable, is expected to arrive in Lagos this month.

The work of the Technical Assistance Division in the Ministry is expanding rapidly. It is true that technical assistance was being received before Independence, but since then there has been a tremendous quickening of the pace and many more countries are offering their aid to us. The aim of technical assistance is to increase the technical experts of our country and this is being achieved by experts helping in various fields in this country and by the training of Nigerians overseas. The main task of my Ministry is to co-ordinate the offers of assistance from donor countries and the applications from within Nigeria with a view to ensuring that assistance is fairly allocated throughout the Federation and the Regions.

Finally, another important aspect of the work of my Ministry is in the field of research. In this important area, we endeavour to undertake fundamental research in agriculture in its widest sense, including Forestry, Veterinary and Fisheries. The four Research Departments have made great strides during the past year; for instance, the Veterinary Research Station at Vom increased its vaccination campaign against rinderpest and a plan is now in hand to wipe out the disease in the countries bordering Nigeria by making available to those countries one million doses of rinderpest vaccine.

In Agriculture, successful investigations have been carried out into methods of increasing yield and expanding the cultivation of food crops, plant breeding and selection, improved agronomy and the use of fertilisers and pest and disease control. The Fisheries Department was engaged in research projects in connection with sea fisheries and those of the Niger and Lake Chad, and further research will be speeded up by the arrival of the special research vessel ordered for the Department to operate out of Lagos. I would like to say, however, that it does not make sense that Nigeria, a

[MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT]

country very short of proteins, should have to import so much fish from abroad. The seas off our coasts are rich in fish and it appears that all the important maritime countries are now engaging in exploiting the harvest off the coast of Africa. We must take part in this, and the development of a full-scale fishing industry is absolutely vital. I am, therefore, pressing forward with plans for this as a matter of high priority.

There is another aspect in the research field which is attracting my personal attention, and that is the question of Nigerianisation. I realise that there are problems in producing the necessary number of research workers and, for the time being, we must rely heavily on expatriates, but it is essential that the pace of Nigerianisation in this important field is speeded up and I intend to see that this is done.

I have given this brief summary of what my Ministry is doing, not to forestall questions from hon. Members, but solely to give them up-to-date information on what is being done. (Applause).

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, Nigeria has just obtained her independence and that was a great land-mark in the history of this great country. But as was said during the debates—the memorable debates—in this House on independence, a lot of stress was laid on economic independence, and we all know very well that a country can be politically independent at law, but, in matter of fact, simply because other people control the economy of that country the political independence of that country may be worth nothing.

I think that there was a time when opinion was divided as to whether or not we should have economic independence before political independence. The people of this country wisely chose to have political independence because that would give us the power to bring nearer the date of our economic independence, and it would also give us the power to raise the standard of living of our people.

The next battle, therefore, Mr Chairman, must be fought resolutely with great determination, and that is the battle of our economic

independence, and I think that it is with that idea in mind that the Ministry of Economic Development was created recently. It is too early to see whether the Ministry is efficient or inefficient because it has just started its work, but I think it is right for us in this House to impress upon the Government the importance—the great importance—which we attach to that Ministry. Between that Ministry, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Ministry of Finance lies the real substance and the real future of this country. If those three Ministries cannot pool together and cannot press forward their objectives in a really nationalistic manner, this country will be doomed.

We have our political independence to-day, but there are all sorts, all sorts, of manoeuvres behind the screen for people to gain control either directly or indirectly, or to continue the control in their hands of our economy. Well there are difficulties in the way of our Ministers. There are difficulties in their way, but they require two things : one is the full and whole-hearted support of the nationalists of this country behind them and, secondly, their own determination to put self-interest aside, to put aside all other interests and to put in their forefront only the interests of this country. If the watchword is the interest of Nigeria and no other interest, it does not matter whose interest is involved ; there should be no other interest. If that is the case, and if they have the go, the push—we require people with push and vigour in these Ministries—if they have that, I have no doubt that we shall succeed.

Now, it has been mentioned before, and it is a great pity, that a man like the hon. Jaja Wachuku, who is the substantive holder of the Ministry of Economic Development, should not even know his Ministry, or where it is. I do not think that he knows the room of the Minister. Since he was appointed Minister, he has been away, doing wonderful work for us.

An hon. Member : Doing very good work. Do not say wonderful work because that will be very long for them. He is doing very good work.

Chief Rosiji : Yes, doing very good work.

I think, Mr Chairman, that the Government should make up its mind whether hon. Jaja Wachuku is going to be Minister of Economic Development or something else. If the hon. Jaja Wachuku is going to be Minister of Foreign Affairs, make him : if he is going to be the Permanent Representative in the United Nations, make him. Let us know exactly where he is and appoint somebody substantively to hold the position of Minister of Economic Development. (*Applause*).

This Ministry is so important that whoever is going to hold it should be a man who is dynamic. We cannot just put any body there to go and fill the space. We need somebody with great dynamism to be in that place ; somebody who knows what he is doing ; somebody who knows of our agitation for Independence ; a person who does not appreciate our agitation for Independence, and who took no part in it, cannot fill that post honourably because what we need there more than anything else is this drive and ultra-nationalism. This is a battle between two people, a battle between us fighting for our own interest and a battle for other people fighting for their interest. Everybody is entitled to fight for his own interest. I cannot blame those who want to control our economy. They could try to, but it is left to us not to allow them to succeed. Therefore we want in that Ministry a really dynamic person, and a really nationalist one too, who will help us to push things and push them vigorously to a successful end.

Now, Mr Chairman, this hon. Minister has spoken to us about planning, about the members of the Ford Foundation who are helping in our economic planning. We on this side of the House have always complained that there is a lack of economic planning. We still maintain that. Maybe when this group of people finish their work, there will be some sort of planning in our economy.

When I spoke early on the debate on the Speech from the Throne, I talked about nationalisation and I tried to explain what our stand on nationalisation is. It really matters for us to plan our economy. Let us divide up all the aspects of our economy into compartments and know how to deal with each well. We cannot deal with all in the same way and manner. Everyone must receive adequate attention.

On the question of industry, I said, Mr Chairman, that we should divide our industry into those which should be handled by public ownership and public ownership only, those which should be handled by private enterprise and private enterprise only, and those which could be sub-divided into two—one part which could be handled by foreign enterprise and Nigerians, and those which should be exclusively reserved only for Nigerians.

Now, what I have just outlined is a matter that requires detailed planning ; because without detailed planning it may not succeed. And I would like to say, further, that if this planning is done well, then the Government will be in a position to know exactly what is to be done and should be able to finance whatever operations there are to be financed. By that time, it will be able to produce some blue prints ; it will be able to bring foreign interests into Nigeria to get into certain industries which have been ear-marked for them. And these people who will be coming to Nigeria will know exactly what they can participate in. They will know what they are not allowed to do and will not be allowed to do.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation said here that the Shipping Line was going to be wholly owned by Nigeria. If we had known that before this time, if this country had known that, things should have moved more smoothly than is done now. But because there was no such planning, there was plenty of bad blood between us and the expatriate firms who handle these operations. That was unnecessary, but because there was no leadership, we did not know where we were going and all these things had to happen. Now I think the Government should get going and plan strictly and accurately.

The last economic plan—five year plan that became a seven year plan—is a disgrace to this country. If we have a five year plan we should stick to our five year plan. If at the end of five years we are unable to complete it, we should know how we were unable to complete it. If we make some mistakes, and we generally make mistakes, then we know how best to correct these mistakes. But if we know we have made mistakes and we hide them and we call a five-year plan now a seven-year plan we are only deceiving ourselves.

[CHIEF ROSIJI]

I believe that now that the Ministry has experts under their control, I believe that they will be able to produce a plan which will be easily carried out within a specific period.

Now, Mr Chairman, I am particularly pleased to hear the statement of the Minister of Commerce and Industry. Nigeria should be a friend of everybody and enemy to none. We should be able to get assistance from anybody under the sun, from everybody under the sun.

The economic mission which the hon. the Minister of Commerce and Industry is leading is a very encouraging thing to this country. Nobody should feel that Nigeria has been pocketed. The Minister should endeavour to give his attention to Japan and Germany. Japan was in the same position as we were some years past. But now she is in the forefront of industrialisation and economic development. If we go and study exactly how Japan carried out her programme it will be of great benefit to us.

The countries which had 300 and 400 years in which to develop their industry are not good for us. We do not have 100 years. We do not have 50 years. We have less than twenty years. And the method which a country like Japan used should be studied. The method which a country like Germany, which after 1945 was a desolate country, should be emulated. The method which Germany used to bring back its economy to the stage where it is to-day and has placed that country also in the fore-front within sixteen years should be studied and applied to this country. We have not got much time; in fact we are short of time and what we have to do is to move very rapidly and be ahead of any other people in the world.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Agbaja and Ngwo) : I am aware that the Ministry of Economic Development is a new creation. For that reason it will be very improper to apportion blame to the Minister who is holding that Portfolio. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker : I hope hon. Members will be good enough to curtail their speeches in order to allow others to contribute to the debate.

Mr Eneh : We are very grateful to the Minister for his proposal to have a manpower board. But I expect that there will be a census of the country, soil survey, manpower survey, industrial survey and a proper statistics of the whole country. With regard to number one, Sir, it will be very difficult for any country to plan its economy properly without knowing exactly how many people are living in the country. For instance, Sir, the census of Nigeria was taken in 1953 and then our population was put at about thirty million. From 1953 to date, there has not been any other census, but we normally put our population conservatively at forty million. How do we know that the population of this country is forty million? We can only do that by having a complete census of the country to enable the Minister to plan ahead very properly.

Next, Sir, is the manpower survey. It is not possible at present to know the number of our people who are engaged in the cotton industry, palm oil industry and the like. It is, therefore, very difficult to know exactly how many people are employed or unemployed. In order to plan our economy very adequately, this survey should be undertaken by the Government.

Next, Sir, I refer to agricultural research on which our whole economy depends. In order to do this research very efficiently, the Government should undertake a comprehensive soil survey in order to determine what types of crops can grow in this or that region. The Minister will then have a map of Nigeria from which he will be able to tell the economists or, in fact, anybody who wants to establish an industry, that this or that crop can grow effectively in this or that area. Furthermore, we have all clamoured for the establishment of industries and it will be necessary to determine the nature of industries that are suitable for this country, where these industries are to be sited, which of these industries should be undertaken by the natives and which are to be undertaken by the combined effort of the indigenous people and foreign entrepreneurs or by the Government alone.

You will find, Sir, that the foreign combines have been allowed to enter into partnership in some cases or to have a monopoly in certain spheres of our industries. This, to a very

great extent, will in future hamper the progress of this country. I want to refer specifically to drinks of various types, beer, 7-up, 5-up and so on and so forth. In other countries the Government do not normally allow foreign companies to undertake brewing. They have the consent of this Government who prescribes the standards to be followed, and see to it that they are complied with so that the health of the nation can be safeguarded.

Another thing, Sir, is statistics. When these enumerators go from place to place, say, for example, Ibadan, Enugu and so on, what they normally do is, after taking the statistics of a village or a town, they multiply the figure by twenty or thirty, as the case may be, and come to an approximation. This is not very nice. There should be a comprehensive survey of every aspect of our life with a view to knowing exactly how things stand in this country. We have to get good statistics on which to depend, thus making it possible for the Government to lay hand on a book giving the exact number of children that attend primary schools, secondary schools and those that do not go to school at all. These statistics are very necessary.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Chief O. Awolowo (Ijebu Remo): Mr Chairman, Sir, we have been repeatedly told in this House that a five-year development plan is in course of preparation I believe, by the Ministry of Economic Development. We are all full of expectation for the day when this plan will be laid on the Table of this House. Then there will be plenty of time to comment on the contents of the plan. I do not want to say anything now that will anticipate the contents of that plan, but there are a number of disturbing trends to which I would like to call the attention of the Minister of Economic Development or the Acting Temporary Minister of Economic Development.... (Laughter).

The first of these disturbing trends is the very paltry and stingy provision which Government has made for statistics and research. I do not claim absolute correctness for my figure, but I have done a little bit of exercise, and the result of this exercise is that I notice that roughly an amount of £800,000 is being spent on research and statistics or the collection of statistical data. I think that whoever is

responsible for this provision ought to go back to school to learn a little bit more about the importance of research and the collection of statistical data to economic planning in any country. You cannot do anything at all without having the results of research and fairly accurate and up-to-date statistical data. (Interruptions).

The Chairman: Order, order, Chief Awolowo.

Chief Awolowo: Well, Mr Chairman, I can stand anything, but not correction from an American graduate, who attended one of those backwood colleges in America.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): What about Sapele graduate?

Chief Awolowo: Any one, Mr Chairman, who sets out to prepare a development programme for a country such as ours without the necessary statistical and research data would be trying to make bricks without straw. It is generally agreed, Sir, and I hope that the Minister of Finance who wants to reply to this will listen to what I am now going to say, that between one per cent and five per cent of the revenue of a country should be spent on research and statistics. Now, we want to make accelerated economic progress, we cannot therefore content ourselves with the very minimum, which is one per cent. I think we ought to aim at the maximum; in other words, we should be spending between two and three million pounds on research and statistics in this country.

I must express my admiration in particular, for the staff of the Department of Statistics. It is my view, my honest view, that these people are not being given the assistance they require in their work. I have here the *Digest of Statistics*, which is a very useful publication, but the latest that we have is No. 4 of October 1960.

When you examine the contents, take the last page—page 88—which deals with *Balance of Payments*. What do we find? We find that the last figures which are contained on that page are those for 1958. For the figures of 1959 and 1960, one has to rely on the guess work of the hon. Minister of Finance. He is by nature a very exuberant and optimistic character but we cannot allow....

The Chairman : I am afraid the hon. Member is talking a bit too much about Statistics on this Head. Could that not wait until we come to Head 34 ?

Chief Awolowo : I thought we were dealing with the policy of the Ministry in general and the Minister, when he was making his speech, did make comments on Statistics.

The Chairman : I do agree that the Head has a lot to do with Statistics—Ministry of Economic Development. But, I thought you were making a particular comment on Statistics in general.

Chief Awolowo : I thought that in view of the opening speech of the Minister I would be permitted to speak in general on all the Heads.

The Chairman : The question proposed is on Head 30.

Chief Awolowo : May I then conclude my remarks on this point by calling upon the hon. Minister of Economic Development to ensure that more money is voted for research and the Department of Statistics and, whenever he comes here with a Supplementary Appropriation Bill for this purpose, he can count upon the support of the Opposition.

The second of the disturbing trends which I have noticed is that from what the Minister has just said and from what other Ministers have said, and from what we see happening in this country, it is clear that the economic plan of the Federal Government is completely devoid of ideological orientation. We are in this country, in the economic sense, moving forward like a ship without a midder and without a compass. What exactly is our ideological concept in regard to our economic problem ? Do we want to adopt the capitalist system unalloyed ?

Already, we have in the Ministry of Economic Development, a number of experts loaned to us by the Ford Foundation. They were brought up in the capitalist system and, naturally, the result of their activities could only be coloured by their own outlook. Are we going to adopt a socialist system, or are we going to have a mixture of both ? The Government has not said anything on this very vital point.

We cannot afford in this country to drift. We must have a definite goal towards which we are working, and all our programmes and plans must be geared to that goal. I hope that the Minister of Economic Development will bear this important point in mind in the preparation of the next five-year plan.

The third of the disturbing trends which I have noticed is the importance, the extreme importance which Government seems to attach to the scale of the Niger Dam Project. If we may judge the scale of that Project by the amount which Government intends to spend upon it, then it is not as tremendous as the Minister of Economic Development would have us believe. The Government is going to spend altogether £67 million according to the hon. Minister of Finance. £67 million on a project which is supposed to serve a large area in the Northern Region and parts of the East and, I believe, parts of the West !

Would £67 million be then regarded as tremendous ?

The Volta Scheme in Ghana which has only a population of about five to six million—is going to cost more than £100 million. The Aswan Dam in Egypt is going to cost something in the neighbourhood of £400 million. We must stop indulging in a grasshopper mentality. We must try to think big and act big. I have constantly opposed the borrowing propensity of the hon. Minister of Finance. I do so, not because I do not realise that borrowing is an important feature of Government finance, but I have done so because I think we are borrowing money indiscriminately without knowing exactly what the outcome of this borrowing is going to be. However I would heartily support borrowing a large sum of money like £200 million or £300 million to be spent on a big project that is going to revolutionise the economy of this country.

The last of the disturbing trends, Mr Chairman, is that whilst the Ministry of Economic Development is expected to co-ordinate all economic matters, that is, all Ministries having anything to do with economic matters, it seems to me that the Ministry is subordinate to another Ministry. The Prime Minister, whilst replying to my remark here yesterday, said that I was trying to knock the heads of certain Ministers against one another.

Well, the hon. Minister of Finance, physically is a heavyweight and I think that he is asserting his stature over all the other Ministers. For, from the distribution of duties here, I do not see why, and how, the Minister of Finance fits into the picture of economic development. His role is clearly defined.

I agree with my colleague who said that the Minister of Economic Development must be someone who is dynamic and who knows the ropes, someone who will be able to assert himself and insist on co-ordinating all Ministries having to do with economic matters, not a Minister who will be prepared to subordinate his own right, his own position and status in the Cabinet to another incumbent.

Lastly, Sir, I want to advise the Ministry of Economic Development very seriously to view our economic problems in their wider sociological setting. Man is the centre of the economic problem and the whole aim of finding a solution to our economic problem is to bring satisfaction, happiness and contentment to man, and, in our own context, to Nigerians. You do not bring this satisfaction about by allowing indiscriminate exploitation of our resources. You do not bring about this happiness of Nigerians by using only the yardstick of profitability in economic venture.

Private enterprisers enter into business only if the business is going to pay them. But we have another consideration, which is the welfare of the people. We, too, therefore, ought to see to it that, whether a particular enterprise is going to be profitable to a private enterpriser or not, as long as that particular venture is in the interest of our people and as long as it will promote the welfare and happiness of our people, so long will it be the duty of the Government to see that such a venture is embarked upon.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to reply to the points made by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition by starting where he has stopped—(Interruption).

Chief Awolowo : On a point of information, Mr Chairman, may we know how the Minister of Finance comes into this business? This is the Ministry of Economic Development and the Minister of Economic Development is here present. Does it mean that he could only read what was written for him by the officials in his Ministry and that when he is confronted

with new points he cannot answer? Or does it mean that my point is justified when I said earlier on that the Minister of Finance is throwing his weight around too much?

The Chairman : Order. I think the hon. the Leader of the Opposition is anticipating. The Minister of Finance has not said anything yet and you do not know what he is going to say.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I was going to begin exactly by saying why I rise to speak at this stage in this debate, and I said I wanted to start from where the hon. Leader of the Opposition stopped.

The Leader of the Opposition had criticised my role in the economic programme of the Federal Government and had tried to tell the House that I tried to throw my weight around in the other two Ministries responsible for our economic development, that is the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. But, Sir, I would like to say this for the information and perhaps edification of Members of the Opposition, that I am charged in my portfolio with responsibility for the economic policy of the Federal Government. (Hear, hear).

All that the hon. Leader of the Opposition has been saying since morning concerns the economic policy of the Federal Government and, therefore, it is my duty to reply to all such points that have been made—(Interruption).

Chief Awolowo : On a point of explanation, Mr Chairman, I have here the list of subjects entrusted to the Minister of Finance. I can lend him my copy—I copied this from the *Gazette*—and economic policy is not one of the subjects. Here it is.

The Minister of Finance : I know what I am charged with—

The Chairman : Order, order. I think the work of Government is a collective responsibility.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, if the hon. Leader of the Opposition will allow me to develop my argument he will see that what he has been trying to tell the House is a complete misdirection of the facts. Naturally the Leader of the Opposition knows quite well that in the Western Region—(Interruption).

The Chairman : I think this noisy interruption of a speaker in this House is becoming an awkward practice.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, while the Leader of the Opposition was the Premier of the Western Region, although he had Oba C. D. Akran as the Minister of Economic Development he charged the Minister of Finance with economic policy of the Western Regional Government—

Mr W. Briggs (Degema) : Mr Chairman, Sir, this is not the Western House of Assembly, this is the Federal House of Representatives, and if the Minister of Finance is accepting the Western Region as his own mentor I think he should resign his post.

The Chairman : The hon. Member knows full well that that is not a point of order. The Minister of Finance.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I honestly crave your full protection at this stage because, when the Leader of the Opposition was making his points, the House was silent to listen to him and I also claim that I should be listened to in silence. This is most unfair—(Interruption).

The Chairman : Order, order. I think the standard of debate is deteriorating very much. I do hope hon. Members will allow business to continue.

The Minister of Finance : What I was saying, Sir, is that the hon. Leader of the Opposition himself knows quite clearly as a graduate in commerce, that no economic programme can be made unless it is discussed along with the financial possibilities.

Mr Chairman, Sir, that is why even the Economic Conference of the Commonwealth is not attended nor initiated by Ministers responsible for Economic Development. All the hon. Members know that yearly all the Ministers of Finance of the Commonwealth under the chairmanship of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in London always have an economic meeting of the whole Commonwealth, and it is only Ministers of Finance that attend and not Ministers for Economic Development.

The fact is that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition wants to teach us something which he did not practise and he knows quite well that any programme that is put up without first of all considering the financial implications

is bound to fail. Therefore, the point is clearly seen that since I have to find the money to finance the development programmes of the Government it is only essential for the three Ministries concerned to work together. And as a matter of fact, it is not only the three Ministries concerned or the three Ministers working together without any one dominating the others but all the Ministers of this Government under the direction of the hon. Prime Minister are working together as brothers of the same political party. (Hear, hear).

I am sure that it is this unity and the concerted action of all the Ministers under the able leadership of the Prime Minister that is giving the Members of the Opposition the headache from time to time. And if they think that by any propaganda, no matter how seriously employed or no matter the position of the person that employs that propaganda to try to dismantle the unity that exist in this Government, I can assure you that it is bound to fail and shatter into smithereens.

Sir, let me, therefore, with this background start to examine some of the points made by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition. He has stated that the sum of £800,000 earmarked for Economic Research is not enough. I want to say that this amount is only the recurrent expenditure and not the capital expenditure. If therefore a government can earmark £800,000 for a recurrent expenditure, for the payment of staff and other expenses in connection with research, I must say that this Government is not only prudent in doing so but is trying not to be extravagant. Apart from that, I want to direct the attention of the hon. the Leader of the Opposition to the fact that in the present programme of the economic development the sum of one million pounds was set aside for capital expenditure. So, nearly two million pounds had been put up for our economic development, research and programme. And what is more is that that is not all.

We also have the Statistics Department which is distinct from this one. So that further money has been spent in the Statistics Department. Apart from that, the Federal Government, as you all know, recently invited Professor Jackson from the Oxford University and Dr Okigbo, our respected economist in

Nigeria, to make the national economic survey of the country. The funds that were expended on this survey are part of what the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has told the House this morning. Then we also have other funds from the United Nations and economists who are also assisting us in working on the statistics.

As I said some time ago, statistics are good in themselves but I will appeal to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition to agree with the Chancellor of the Exchequer who says that statistics are to a Minister what a lamp post is to a drunkard as it is more for his support than for illumination. (*Hear, hear*). Hon. Members of this House will agree that we have to rely on statistics, although in the olden days when our fathers and mothers were talking about rising cost of living they did not base it on figures on paper; they knew that they had to plant more if they had to give more food to the people. That is practical economics.

As regards the type of the economic policy we want to pursue, whether it is capitalist or socialist, in my Budget Speech I made it clear. The type of policy we are pursuing is certainly a democratic socialist system in which life more abundant will not be only for the Leader of the Opposition but for all of us.

Sir, mention has always been made of the Niger Dam and we have been told that the Niger Dam project is not gigantic enough because it does not involve so many millions of pounds. I would like to tell the House that this project is going to be taken in stages and the amount of money that I have mentioned in my Budget Speech is to cover the first stage. And that stage, when it is completed, will be able to yield further funds that will enable us to carry on the second stage without necessarily going out to borrow. I feel that this is really a sound economy.

Sir, mention has always been made about the hon. the Minister of Economic Development in the United Nations. Well, I want to say that once a Minister, especially when he is a Cabinet Minister, is charged with a responsibility even if it is for one hour, that Minister has been thought of by the Prime Minister to be capable of discharging his duties. And after all, the test of the pudding is in the eating. The hon. Mr Obande is a successful business man. I have always advocated in this country that people like Mr Briggs who cannot balance their personal budget (*Interruptions*).

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : Sir, I am sure my personal budget has nothing to do with the Federal Government.

The Chairman : This is only a provocative joke.

The Minister of Finance : I want to say that whether the hon. Jaja Wachuku is in the United Nations or not the hon. the Minister now charged with the responsibility for Economic Development is a capable Minister and has been discharging his duties most creditably.

The only reason why the Members of the Opposition have been crying about the hon. Jaja Wachuku is that they had thought that the hon. Prime Minister was going to put a simpleton, a never-do-well, to represent Nigeria in the United Nations and because he selected a capable son of Nigeria who has proved his worth and shown so much ability that he has been elevated in the United Nations, is another headache to the Opposition. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : On a point of Order, Sir, I want to assure the hon. Minister of Finance that the representation the hon. Jaja Wachuku is making in the United Nations is a joy to every Nigerian.

Mr Speaker : I do not know what you call a point of order.

The Minister of Finance : I am happy that the performance of the hon. Jaja Wachuku is a joy to all of us.

The hon. Ayo Rosiji has made a point about economic independence. Honestly, as usual, both he and the hon. Anthony Enahoro have vamoosed; you will not find them here.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : According to the advice of the Chairman, we on this Side have been listening silently to the speech being made by the hon. Minister of Finance. But, Sir, the people on that Side make a lot of noise and the Minister goes on attacking this side with all sorts of provocative language. We do not like to lend or to contribute to the noise that may derogate the comportment of this hon. House.

Mr Speaker : Yes, I think provocative speeches have been made on both Sides and I do not favour that very much, particularly under the discussion of this subject.

The Minister of Finance : I was speaking of the economic independence. We have not only had our political independence but also we have our economic independence in the sense that we are responsible for our economies. Our people plant their crops and we ship them independently; we do not depend on other countries. But if one wants to look at the other side of the economic inter-dependence one will agree that all countries of the world are dependent on each other for their economy. If one is going to have a circumscribed type of economy which rotates within the precincts of a country then that economy will soon grow and die like a mushroom.

Now, Sir, the question of monopoly was also raised. The hon. and able Minister of Commerce and Industry has told this House only yesterday or so that he is the Chairman of the Ministerial Committee that is going to look into the question of monopoly in this country. These points can be made and I agree that once Ministers have made responsible statements on the Floor of this House I think they should be taken seriously. No one is interested in monopoly and no one is interested also in some sort of monopolistic capitalism because we feel that the indigenes of this country should have hands in the economic development of the country. But at the same time we must accept that this cannot be done over night. At the moment we have not the money and we have not even the technical know-how nor have we been able to train our people enough. All we have to do at the moment is, I think, what the Regional Governments are doing. When there is any business or economic programme for the development of the Federation and Nigerians are found who will undertake them, they put in money and whenever the money is ripe, and there is enough of development made, and there are Nigerians coming forward with money to buy the shares of the Federal Government or the Regional Governments, then they will be sold to them. Unless we make this sort of arrangement you will agree with me that it will be impossible for us to grow and lay an unshakable foundation for the economy of this country.

The hon. Ayo Rosiji has spoken about Japan and Western Germany when the Economic Mission is out there. I agree with

him completely. But this only goes to enforce the points that I always make here that those who advocate nationalism on a wholesale basis are really not doing credit to this country. Japan, that the hon. Ayo Rosiji is asking us to go to, is not a nationalised economy. All economy in Japan is in the hands of private businessmen and there is not even the nationalisation to the extent that we have gone now, yet they were able to shoot a rocket. Western Germany also is private capitalism; it is not in the hands of the Government.

Reference to these two places cannot enforce the argument of the Opposition. On the other hand it only goes to support the policy of the Federal Government. While we are not going to support capitalism to the extent that it will be to the exclusion of the ordinary man-in-the-street, we are going to support people taking part in economic matters as long as their financial resources can carry them to achieve their objectives. So you will find that the Prime Minister has done a good work in this country by sharing economic matters to my Ministry, that of Economic Development, and that of Commerce and Industry. I can assure the hon. House, Sir, that three of us are not working in competition with ourselves. We are working together so that we can bring to Nigeria the real fruit of economic programme and development.

M. Iro Mashi (Marusa Mashi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to express my appreciation for the work of the Federal Government for the period 1955-62 economic programme. Sir, I understand that the Federal Government is preparing a new development plan for another five years—1962-67. That is very welcome. I hope that the Federal Government will continue with its work of development in order to cope with the heavy task involved in the advancement of our sovereign nation.

I noticed, Sir, among other things that the new plan will cover the Niger Dam project which involves an investment of about £67 million. I realise the importance of that remarkable project and the benefits to be derived from it. In my opinion, however, the development of agriculture should be given priority over all other things because Nigeria is an agricultural country. Every effort should, therefore, be directed towards the improvement

of agriculture in order to increase the cash crops and other farm crops. These crops are the main sources of economic growth in Nigeria.

In connection with this, I would like to suggest that the Federal Government should co-operate with all the Regional Governments to embark upon a big plan for the agricultural development in order to raise the standard of living of the people of this country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very pleased to note that Nigeria has been admitted into the membership of some of the international financial organisations which will provide valuable assistance to Nigeria; among them is the United Nations Special Fund which is concerned with natural resources and researches which can accelerate the economic programme. Sir, Nigeria has a lot of mineral resources and I think it is advisable for the Federal and the Regional Governments to apply specially for assistance to explore those resources. Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank the Government for the wise thinking of sending a representative Nigerian economic mission overseas under the leadership of the Minister of Finance. This is very important as it will bring tremendous benefits to Nigeria.

The composition of the mission is very good, but I would like to suggest that two members of the mission, instead of one from each Region, should be included, because two men are better than one, as they can help each other in explaining any matters concerning their Region.

Sir, I beg to support. (*Cheers*).

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in rising to support this Head, I like to say, Sir, that I agree wholeheartedly with those who have said that the correct co-ordination of the Ministries of Finance, Economic Development and Commerce and Industry could possibly make Nigeria one of the greatest countries in the world. I have no doubt that the calibre of the man we have in the Minister of Finance is the right one. I also believe, from my own experience, that the Minister of Finance ranks as one of the most able, if not the ablest, of all Finance Ministers in the emergent Africa and Asian nations of the world. (*Applause*).

Similarly, Sir, I can say so about our able Minister of Commerce and Industry. (*Hear, hear*). The hon. Zanna Bukar Dipcharima has impressed friends and foes alike—

Some hon. Members : No foes.

Dr Kalu Ezera : No foes? I am very glad to hear that. He has impressed all as one of the most dynamic Ministers on that Bench. (*Applause*). We must therefore congratulate the Government on its bold and courageous stand on trade with the Communist bloc, which I think is very good.

But, Sir, there is one observation which, if I fail to make here, I shall not have discharged my duty to my conscience, to my professional colleagues in the academic world, and to the country at large. This observation clearly could have come under the heading of Appropriation, but since I did not have time to do so, I crave your indulgence, Sir, to make these observations here, since they impinge very heavily on economic development.

First, within this Ministry, as in most other economic and fiscal ministries of the Government, one detects an unmistakably clear tendency to what sociologists have called *intellectual phobia*, which means anti-intellectualism. (*Hear, hear*). The Government has started its intention of using, and indeed uses, practical economists in preference to what the Minister of Finance has called academic economists, and he said—"We have our Doctors of Economics who become teachers in the universities immediately they have qualified. They may be academically brilliant, but that does not necessarily mean that they make good practical advisers".

Clearly, Sir, even if the above is directed against an individual, it constitutes an unjustified attack on academic freedom and portrays an unfortunate and disturbing trend towards anti-intellectualism.

In any event, Sir, I submit that the distinction between academic and practical economists is nebulous, and any attempt to over-emphasise such a distinction could be misleading. There can be no doubt that what the Government needs is economic knowledge tempered with experience either in the world of commerce or in Government. (*Applause*).

And here, Sir, one may ask, what opportunities have the Government given to these Nigerian academic economists in order that they may acquire the necessary experience to become academic as well as professional economists? What in fact is the structural position of the Federal Government's Economic Adviser, Mr Prasad, whom we all respect

[DR EZERA]

very highly as a most practical and academic economist? What in fact is his structural position, *vis-a-vis* the Economic Planning Unit composed of the Ford Foundation Economists? I must say, Sir, that there is a tendency here to think that once an economist comes from abroad and his skin is white, he is a practical economist, but once a Nigerian is an economist and his skin is black, oh he is not a practical economist!

Lest there be any misunderstanding on this issue, I have not arrogated to myself the spokesmanship of the intellectuals of this country, but coming, as you know, Sir, from the University, if I go back, I shall not have done my duty to my colleagues for not speaking out on this issue, because I see in this issue a general trend, as I said before, to anti-intellectualism or what I call intellectuaphobia. But I know the Minister of Finance is not an intellectuaphobist because he himself is an intellectual (*Hear, hear*); by all means he is a practical man and also an intellectual.

I must say, that no country has ever attained sound and economic growth without the active participation of its intellectuals. All I am pleading here, Mr Chairman, is for our Government not to hold these Nigerian intellectuals in contempt or ridicule, but rather to attempt to create a place for them in the scheme of things. This can be done very easily by co-opting them into Government Advisory Committees or into Economic Missions.

Whatever happens, Government must recognise the need and urgency for the full tapping of the talents of the whole country. Any Government that ignores its intellectuals does so at its own peril. This is much more so in an under-developed country where this class constitutes the largest reservoir or fountain of knowledge and ideas necessary for the running of a modern State. The preponderance of intellectuals in the appointment of the present Kennedy Administration in the United States is an eloquent testimony to the high regard with which intellectuals are held, even in a highly developed country. So, I must plead with the Government to make full use of its intellectuals who are prepared to help us and not to hold them in ridicule.

Sir, this leads me to the next point—the Economic Planning Unit in the Ministry of Economic Development. I asked earlier what the professional position of the Federal Government's Economic Adviser is *vis-a-vis* with Economic Planning. We know that members of this Ford Foundation are themselves economic experts and they are doing a very useful job to the country, but how is the co-ordination taking place? Is there any single Nigerian practical economist within that Unit? From what I can see in the Estimates, they all range within the Assistant Secretary level. Surely, this is not the range from where advice should be brought in by the Government. It seems to me that they are not fully used, even those who are in Government, much less so those who are outside.

We know also, Sir, that there used to be a very able practical and academic Nigerian economist in the Government, who has now been loaned to the United Nations and is somewhere vegetating in Addis Ababa. Why can we not recall him? I am not trying to be personal here, but I think that the sooner we use our local talents, the better for this country. We cannot continue to rely on experts from abroad, experts from abroad, at fantastic costs to our economy.

Sir, as I said earlier, I do not intend to make a very long speech on this issue, but all I do want to say is that the Ministry of Economic Development is a very vital part in the economic life of this country and on no account must the impression be created, directly or indirectly, that this is a subordinate Ministry. It is not. If we must survive, having won our political independence, as a country and to attempt to lead Africa as we are bound to do, then we must give full status and full honour to that Ministry of Economic Development. We cannot do so unless we use adequately our local talents, and only where they refuse to work with the Government should they be discarded.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support this Head of Estimates. It appears to me that the economic development of this country can be likened to the economic development of Australia when it was first of all settled upon by Europeans, and also to that of the southern parts of the United States in the 18th Century.

In Australia, the country was mainly agricultural and there were no industries, no factories and the problem arose as to what type of economic development should be taken. The same thing happened in the Southern States of the United States—in States like Texas, Carolina and Mexico, and other Southern States. These States were able to develop their industrial schemes side by side with their agricultural resources. I think, Sir, that if this country really wants to develop her economy in the right direction, we should look towards these countries. To-day, Australia which started right from nothing is now able to boast of a great cattle industry, industrial programmes and projects; and this goes for the southern parts of the United States of America.

I do not think that we should copy the countries of Europe and particularly England, in matters of development because, apart from climatic conditions, these countries are quite different. These countries took centuries to evolve their present economic system after the Industrial Revolution.

I submit, Sir, that I fully support the views expressed by the earlier speaker, Dr Ezera, in respect of tapping local economists. I do not think the foreign experts, no matter what may be their degrees, no matter what may be their experience, and no matter what may be their qualifications or standing in the world, can really solve our own problems for us. It is we, the people of this country, who can solve our problems ourselves. India is solving her problems not so much with the aid of foreign economic experts, not so much with the aid of the United Nations, but with the aid of the Indian people themselves.

Now, let the Minister of Economic Development set up an Economic Advisory Council consisting of local economic experts, consisting of trade union experts, consisting of even literate market women, and Members of this House and let this Economic Advisory Council submit policy papers to the Government. The Government will not be bound to accept these papers, but they could form the basis upon which the Government can act.

I understand that after Dr Prasad arrived in this country he continued to write to the United Nations to be getting facts and figures and certain data about Nigeria. I think that is

an unfortunate situation. We do not need to go to America to know what is good for this country. All we should do is to go to the villages of Ibadan, go to the villages of Oron, go to the villages of Kano, and we will see what the people of this country actually need. I think that we are stretching this matter too far. What these foreign experts come here to advise our Governments are what our local economists have written day in day out on the pages of our newspapers and on our news bulletins on the radio. The only problem is this—and in which I agree fully with the Minister of Finance—many of our local economists cannot divorce their professional knowledge from their politics. When they write in papers on matters of finance, they pollute their intellectual writing with their political conviction. The result is that the Government has no confidence in them and I would not blame any Government which does not trust political opponents.

Now, if anybody wants to be an economist he should be an economist, and if anybody wants to be a politician he should be a politician; and while writing in the papers or in a book on economic matters he should be able to free himself from political prejudice. It is then and only then that the Government will be able to repose confidence in them.

Now, it has been said that the Ministry of Economic Development is inter-woven with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Finance. I would even go further and say that those tripartite Ministries are the bedrock of our economic development. Now, the Ministry of Economic Development is the Ministry of Ministries. It relates to every Ministry in the Federal Government. For instance, you cannot imagine the Minister of Mines and Power making programmes without reference to the Minister of Economic Development; or even the Minister of Information making some programmes without reference to the Minister of Economic Development. This Ministry is very vital to us.

I do not agree with those people who say that the present acting Minister is incapable or that the Ministry is being mis-managed. I do not agree at all. I think the Ministry is in very capable hands and given the support and encouragement necessary, the acting Minister should be able to achieve his purpose.

[MR AKINJIDE]

In respect of development, I do not think our so-called Five-year Programme is a five-year programme in the real sense. I think we have got to be honest to ourselves. Now, some of the things which are put in that Programme are things which should be in the normal day-to-day development. We want to see schemes of real gigantic development. For instance, the question of a dam. If you make a dam, you get two important things from it : electricity and irrigation. Electricity in this country is very expensive.

Now the cost of electricity in this country to-day is fantastic. Electricity in Nigeria is three times dearer than it is in England and ten times the price of electricity in Israel. (*An hon. Member : Terrible*). Now how do you want industrialists to profit? How do you want economic development to go on at a steady rate or speedily when the cost of electricity is so expensive?

And there are those of us who pay up to £15 to £20 electricity bill every month because we have got air conditioning in our private houses. Now these are some of the everyday things which I think the Minister should look into.

And then, Sir, before I sit down I want to talk about Statistics. The Department of Statistics in the Ministry of Economic Development is not doing very satisfactory work. Their work is not up-to-date and the facts and figures which they supply do not form the basis of the economic development of this country.

The Chairman : Let us leave these comments on Statistics until we come to Head 34—Statistics.

Mr Akinjide : Now, Sir, finally, I want the Government to set up what I called earlier an Economic Advisory Council which will consist of local economists, Members of the House, Members of the Trade Union Movement and even some of the members of the foreign companies in this country and the aim of this Council should be to produce papers to the Government in an advisory capacity. (*Applause*).

The Minister of Economic Development (Hon. J. C. Obande) : Mr Chairman, Sir, it is interesting to listen to Chief Awolowo during

his speeches in this House. Chief Awolowo, as good as he is, has many times behaved childishly by making unnecessary remarks. (*Interruption*). (*Cries of Fire, Fire*).

The Chairman : Order, order. It is impossible for me to detect any point of order when hon. Members are making all this noise.

Mr O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : It is against Standing Order 35 for any Member to make unseemly remarks about another Member. Even though the hon. Member is in the position of Acting Minister of Economic Development, that he should say that the Leader of the Opposition has behaved childishly is highly reprehensible (*Interruption*). (*An hon. Member : It is an irresponsible statement*).

The Chairman : Order, order, order. Honestly, I did not hear the remark; and that may be due to unseemly interruptions which are equally reprehensible.

The Minister of Economic Development : Mr Chairman, Sir, I meant to say that what one man can do, another man can do. (*Interruption*). (*An hon. Member : That is no good*).

The Chairman : Order. I think we have got to allow progress to be made; and I believe I shall have name one or two Members before things get right and I ask Members not to be surprised if I do so.

The Minister of Economic Development : In view of the interruptions from the Opposition I have only got to reply to a few points raised by hon. Members. Chief Awolowo, as a matter of fact, said in his remarks that the amount of £67,000,000 voted for the Niger Dam is not sufficient. I would like to say that we have other proposals and that we have voted the sum of £10,000,000 for Shiroro and we have provided another £40,000,000 for Jebba. I think he will be very pleased to hear this, and now he may be in a position to agree with me that, even if we have not adopted his own precise ideas, the Government has made progress.

I would also like to point out that there is very good liaison between this Ministry, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and that, far from

there being any friction at all, this liaison has worked well indeed. We are doing our best as a team not only to set up gigantic projects, but also to ensure that at every stage material development is evenly distributed all over the country. It is the duty of every Member of this House who has the interests of Nigeria at heart to contribute, by valuable suggestions, to the sound economic development of the country. I can assure you, Sir, that the Ministry of economic Development has executed many plans which have met with the approval of world renowned experts. (*Hear, hear*).

As I said in my speech, we are setting up a Manpower Survey, and there will be a Manpower Board to take charge of this and I would like to tell you that—(*Interruptions*).

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East): On a point of order, Sir, may I ask what is a—(*Laughter*).

The Chairman: Order! Order! Order! That is only a question.

Prince D. N. Abii (Owerri East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I hope you have taken notice of how the Opposition disturb our Ministers when they are speaking. (*Interruption*).

The Chairman: Order, order. The hon. Member is just saying what everybody is aware of.

Chief A. Enahoro: Is it in order for an hon. Member to threaten to disturb the proceedings of this House?

The Chairman: Order, order. He is not threatening. I think hon. Members must allow the debate to continue.

The Minister of Economic Development: I think Chief Enahoro did not understand me. I meant to say that—(*Interruptions*). Listen then! Listen now! I said that—(*Interruption*).

The Chairman: Some more interruptions!

The Minister of Economic Development: I have said that a Manpower Survey will be undertaken by Manpower Boards. If the Opposition meant to disturb me because I have mentioned the Leader of the Opposition at the onset of my speech, then they are wrong. If they do not listen to me, how can they hear?

Mr Chairman, Sir, I want also to inform the House that soil survey has been done in Niger Valley and that a Soil Fertiliser Unit has been set up at Umudike in the Eastern Region. We are also trying to strengthen the Statistics Offices in the Ministry.

Mention has been made that Nigerians are not in the Economic Unit of the Ministry. I would like to say that we have three well-trained economists in the Ministry, and that we are also trying to get more Nigerians into the Ministry. We need every encouragement, and I hope too that the Leader of the Opposition and others will not just come here to cry down Ministers and other hon. Members who are contributing valuably to the Debates. All we want here is concrete criticism upon which we can act.

In conclusion, Sir, may I tell the House that we cannot achieve success unless we have support from you. I thank those who have contributed very well to the Debates, particularly Dr Ezera, and I think that others will follow suit as we go on by making useful points.

Question put and agreed to.

£313,010 for Head 30—Ministry of Economic Development—agreed to.

HEAD 31—AGRICULTURE (RESEARCH)

Question proposed, That £239,920 for Head 31—Agriculture (Research)—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to say, before I proceed with the points I have to raise at this Head, that the Acting Minister of Economic Development has failed in his duty for making his Ministerial Statement only this morning and hon. Members have not the appropriate time to criticise his statement as they would if he had made a statement long before to-day.

The Chairman: Order, order. I think that the hon. Member should have understood that we have passed the Ministry of Economic Development. We are now on Head 31, Agriculture (Research).

Mr Obi: Under this Head, much stress is laid on Maize Research work. It is surprising to note that most of our agricultural products

[MR OBI]

are consumed locally in this country. No effort is made to export some of them. I think that it would be a nice thing, Sir, if effort is made to preserve some of these products, such as yams, maize, beans, and groundnut, to make it possible for us to export them to other needy countries. I say this because we have at times had scarcity of certain products during the year. This is because the crops are not reserved. It is not enough to lay emphasis on maize research work without thinking of other crops which would be of use to people outside Nigeria.

I think, too, Sir, that the Federal Government ought to think about the ways and means whereby farm settlement could be established all over the country. They could do this in consultation with the Regional Governments, because in the Western Region we have farm settlements where school leavers are trained in agriculture so that when they finish their training they have a way of living. I think that if the Federal Government does anything to encourage the Regional Governments in this aspect of life, we shall have helped to solve the great problem of unemployment in this country.

The other point I would like to mention is experimental irrigation farming on the Niger and other navigable rivers of this country. Certain crops are cultivated during certain months of the year, and if we could adopt the irrigation farming system it would be possible for us to reserve certain crops at different times during the year, and this will also help to give employment to many people. I think that the Government has not given much importance to this aspect of its work, because there is no special person appointed to take charge of this Department. There should be a Minister of Agriculture, as they have in the Regions. It is bad for us to have many Ministers of State, some Ministers without cabinet status when they can be given an assignment such as agriculture. People like Chief Omo-Osagie, who is an elderly man, could rightly be appointed as Minister of Agriculture to enable him to become a Minister with Cabinet status.

Mr B. Ukaegbu (Owerri South East): I would urge the speaker to speak on Agriculture (Research) and stop wasting the time of us all.

The Chairman : I think the hon. Member should concentrate on Research rather than Agriculture itself.

Mr Obi : Well, I think, I have one other point to make Sir. That is, if the Federal Government realises that the social, economic and political development of a country depends on agriculture, arrangements should be made to make loans available to farmers in the Regions through the Regional Governments. I say this because the local farmers do not in any way notice the activities of the Federal Government as far as agriculture is concerned.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North) : I wish to seize this opportunity to congratulate the Regional Governments for the interest which they are taking in agriculture. I think that since the Federal Government deals with Agriculture in the field of research they should come to the help of the Regional Governments by intensifying the research work which they are carrying out. If the Regional Governments are spending thousands of pounds in order to enhance agricultural work in the various Regions, it follows that research work should keep pace with the tempo of new agricultural moves in the Regions.

It is gratifying to note that the research effort of the Regional Governments is bearing fruit, but we think that new experimentations with new crops from various parts of the world, particularly from other tropical countries, could be embarked upon by the Federal Government in order to diversify our economy.

Well, one other very important point which I want to make in connection with Agricultural Research is the fact that it seems that very little attention is paid to some of the domestic animals in the southern part of this country ; for instance, the southern types of cows, sheep, goats, and so on. I hope that more efforts are put in that direction so that we shall be able to rear plenty of big cows which will produce plenty of fats and proteins.

Another very important point which I want to make is about research in poultry particularly in the south and the outbreak of animal diseases generally. I feel that Agricultural Research, if it is going to worth anything at all, should try to help in mitigating the incidents of diseases trying to harm animals.

One other point I want to make is that it would be a good thing if the Federal Government helped the various Regions to carry out soil survey. I think it is high time that the whole country is really surveyed so that we shall be able to know exactly what crops are suitable for which part of the country; for example, I think the Eastern Nigeria was neglected for a long time on the question of cocoa plantation. I feel it is wrong to think that this part of the country is unsuitable for cocoa work or for this or for that. In order to stamp out this type of wrong information, I think the Ministry should consider immediate soil survey throughout the whole country.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwazo East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would very much like to see more money provided by the Government for agricultural research. The reason Sir, is that Nigeria is essentially an agricultural country and so no amount of money can be said to be wasted for agricultural research.

Another problem is that one often hears that people become impatient about the result in the research laboratories. I would remind people that even to search takes time, how much more to research. (*Laughter*).

An hon. Member : It is true.

Alhaji Bello Dandago : Sir, the Research Station at Samaru requires a lot of Government attention. The North is more or less responsible for the feeding of our fellow people here with meat and so, Sir, the more we can get better cows, better sheep, better meat to feed our brothers here like Mr Odulana, Sir, the better. (*Laughter*). So Mr Chairman, I would very much like more money to be spent and people to be more patient with the results of research.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

£239,920 for Head 31—Agriculture (Research)—agreed to.

HEAD 32—FISHERIES SERVICE

Question proposed, That £53,110 for Head 32—Fisheries Service—stand part of the Schedule

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, if the angel cannot do more than his best, I think it is most unkind to expect too much from our Minister of Economic Development. As would be seen from the standard of his ministerial statement this morning, he has demonstrated to the House his ability and a willing horse should not be ridden to death.

The Chairman : I think we have passed the Head for Economic Development. We are now on Fisheries Service.

Chief Okunowo : I think that is sufficient for our hon. Minister. Now coming to Agricultural research, I do not see, Sir, how we can safely continue to make a research without a Minister of Food.

An hon. Member : Minister of *Okporoko* : you will be made the Minister.

Chief Okunowo : I think that is the thing which is very, very important and this House should give serious consideration to it. Now and again, there is a rise in the cost of our living. I think the time has come for the Government to give consideration to the creation of a Ministry of Food one main concern of which should be to give day-to-day consideration to the rising or the falling of our food prices. I think the more we are going to be at peace over labour crises so that the Minister of Economic Development should be able to . . . (*Interruptions*).

Mr Chairman : If the hon. Member has no more point, I think he better gives way to others.

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South West): Mr Chairman, Sir, much has already been said about fish research in this country but one goes to think, what has this fish research gained? Every year a big sum of money is spent to run this Department. For instance, there is a fish industry in Okigwi Division set up by a private concern. As you all know, it is very, very hard for any private person to set up an industry and succeed without encouragement from the Government. I feel that since these people have been able to set up this enterprise and there is vote in our funds to maintain such research, Government should come to the aid of these people otherwise the money they have so far spent will go for nothing.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr D. O. Enefola (Igala South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have a few words to say on a little point which the House did not bring to the notice of the Minister in charge of this Head. We all know that fish is an important item in our daily food and the method of preserving fish in this country by smoking and blackening calls for investigation by this Research Department. If we can have type of modern equipment by which most of our women and the local people grind corn, pepper, and other things for meals, I think that it is time that a special oven or a method by which fish can be dried in the best way is brought into this country because this method of drying fish by smoking and making it very black is not very good as an item of our daily diet. So I implore the Minister concerned to investigate this matter and give it priority.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): Mr Chairman Sir, I think the Minister assured us that this year, the year 1961-62, there would be a lot of development in the fishing industry. I have always said that the fishing industry is very much neglected in this country.

Agriculture and fisheries are basic industries of this country and it would appear that the emphasis is more on agriculture than on the fishing industry. It is left to the Regional Governments, but the Regional Governments are in the main dominated by the larger ethnic groups and these larger ethnic groups are mostly from agricultural areas. That is why emphasis is more on agriculture than on the fishing industry because these ethnic groups do not understand the importance of the fishing industry. That is why I am really thankful to the Minister of Finance when he said that there would be a lot of development for the fishing industry. I do not see the reason why there should not be a big plan by the Federal Government to give fishing trawlers and frigidaire for the use of fishermen and for a system of fish curing and the canning industry, to can our fish and export it abroad to give wealth to the local fishermen.

At the present moment, the fishing industry is subject to very heavy diminishing returns and everybody who is from the fishing area will know what I mean. It is because of this that there is constant conflict between what

they call outsiders (I am saying outsiders in quote now) outsiders and interlopers, people who are not actually in the fishing areas but who come from wherever they are to come and fish in that place. They are not used to that kind of fishing which the experienced inhabitants of that area know very well. Because of that, they use all sorts of methods. They kill fish with poison and kill even the young shoals without any consideration at all for the fishing industry in that area.

The Kalabaries and for that matter, the people in the Rivers area, due to years of experience have developed a method of fish farming very similar to the rotation of crops which the people in the hinterland have also perfected. These people in the hinterland do not understand it at all. What they want is profit. They want the fish and sell them at a big profit with the result that they kill the fish; they denude the fish pond without any consideration for the industry. Well, if the fishing industry in that area is destroyed, they move to another area or they have alternative occupations. But those people who are born and bred in that area, know no other trade than the fishing industry; they also know no other place than these areas which have become their traditional place of abode and quest for their livelihood. So I would ask the Minister of Finance or whoever is responsible, the Minister of Economic Development to co-operate with the Regional Governments towards the development of the fishing industry. If that is done, I think the industry will grow and our economy will be much better than at present, particularly from the fishing side of it.

The Minister of State (Hon. J. C. Obande): Mr Chairman, on a point of information. During my speech I said that special research for fishing will be speeded up and that a vessel ordered for the Department to operate out of Lagos will soon be in this country and as a matter of fact, this Ministry is doing its best to improve the fishing industry. I want to make it clear that in the Ministry at present, we are short of fishing officers and that we are now doing our best to recruit some.

Question, That £53,110 for Head 32—Fisheries Service—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 33—FORESTRY (RESEARCH)

M. Daura : No.

Question proposed, That £102,690 for Head 33—Forestry (Research)—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I only wish to draw attention to this. A few years ago, there was a boom in timber trade in the Eastern Region. As a result of that a good many of the profitable and economic trees were hewn down and exported, as far as people could do that and the result is now that those valuable economic trees have largely disappeared. Now again, there is a fast extermination of Iroko trees, particularly in the Ibo area of the Eastern Region. These trees are very heavily relied upon for houses and other household furniture.

We do not know, Sir, what efforts have been made by the Forestry Department to rehabilitate the areas from which these trees have been removed. It does seem to me that before very long, at least within the Eastern Region, we will be in dire need of timber which we may have to obtain by importing from other places. So, Sir, I think there is a very urgent need for rehabilitation of the forestry system. Also, the most valuable type of trees we have, Iroko, mahogany and the like take too many years to grow and far too long to mature.

The other day the agriculturists in the Forestry Department succeeded in being able to rear up palm trees to start bearing fruits within two years. That is a remarkable thing; normally it should take about 7 to 10 years. I think it would be something really worthwhile and something of real and lasting value if the Department of Forestry Research would find out for us ways of breeding these valuable trees within a very short time.

M. Haruna Daura : Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting this expenditure under Forestry Research, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to directing the research towards improving the indigenous trees especially in the Northern Region, because the research of southern trees has already been started and most of them are successful. There are many important economic trees in the North, Sir, but the research is mainly on foreign trees.

An hon. Member : Your land is barren.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I am not against the idea of planting foreign trees but I would also like to improve the standard of our own indigenous trees. I know, Sir, that foreign trees grow much quicker but the native ones last longer and are also much stronger.

Mr Chairman, Sir, we are indeed very grateful to the Northern Government for the new scheme of forest management, which has recently been introduced into the Region but still, Sir, we need more research to carry out the scheme and the research is here in the Federation. Therefore, Sir, we shall be grateful if the Federal Government will provide sufficient funds for carrying the scheme in time because the forestry research, unlike other research, is a long term process. This is why I should like the Government to give sufficient funds for carrying out the scheme.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr E. D. Akinbowale (Ijebu North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move that this Head be reduced by £100. Those who know the history of Forestry and Agriculture and Veterinary will agree that Forestry is the father of Agriculture, and that Veterinary came as a new arrival on the stage. But apparently, now, the reverse is the case: Agriculture, first and then Veterinary, and lastly Forestry. Probably the cause of this state of affairs is that Forestry is a department of long term policy, while Agriculture and Veterinary are departments of short-term policies.

But it appears that there is something wrong with Forestry. While the authorities of the Agricultural Department do recruit qualified officers for the various Sections, the authorities of the Forestry Department recruit unqualified officers or officers with poor qualifications for various assignments. In some cases, the qualification was the colour of the skin. The result was always bad work at the expense of the country. In the East the story is the same; in the West the story is the same, and in the North there is no difference—a Department of second or third rate importance.

About twenty years ago, Mr Chairman, Sir, a Malayan Officer of international reputation had to come out to save Forestry from losing its position as a recognised department of Government. Even then the damage done

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could not be repaired during the few years that the Officer spent in the country. Also he had to do all his work ; direct all his activities from Ibadan, which was then Nigerian Headquarters of the Department.

Regionalisation in about 1954 saved the Department a lot and so a Department of Forest Research was started to compete favourably with Agricultural Research and, perhaps, Veterinary Research. Huge buildings are now under construction at Ibadan, and the present Director of Forest Research and his well-selected staff—expatriates and non-expatriates—are a credit, but unless efforts are made to publicise their doings so that the public can benefit by them, the Department will be relegated to the background and will only be known as a Department full of forestry activities by way of timber exploitation.

One point more, Mr Chairman, which I would like to make is that care should be taken to ensure that the old mistake is not repeated in this Ministry, and that is that only officer trained in research work should be placed in charge of Regions so that there will be uniformity and efficient service throughout the country.

Recently, an Officer was promoted in the Department to the Senior Research Officer grade. This Officer has only been a Forest Officer, not a Research Officer, but because he is a European, and because he is an expatriate he was considered fit for that post.

And it being 11.45 a.m. the Chairman proceeded, pursuant to Order (10th April), to put forthwith the Question already proposed from the Chair.

£102,690 for Head 33—Forestry Research—agreed to.

HEAD 34—STATISTICS

£209,800 for Head 34—Statistics—agreed to.

HEAD 35—VETERINARY (RESEARCH)

£226,370 for Head 35—Veterinary (Research)—agreed to.

Then the Chairman left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress—to sit again tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed that this House do now adjourn—(Minister of State, hon. M. T. Mbu).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at thirteen minutes to twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Saturday, 15th April, 1961

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

REPORT FROM THE BUSINESS
COMMITTEE

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I have to inform the House that Mr Eneh reports from the Business Committee that, in accordance with Standing Order 55A (1) (c), they have decided that the following Private Members' Motions be placed on the Order Paper for Tuesday, 18th April, in the order, as follows :—

- (a) U.N. Intervention in Congo Situation (No. 76).
- (b) Extension and Improvement of Trunk Roads (No. 80).
- (c) Royalties on Crude Oil (No. 78).
- (d) Prime Minister's Tours of the Regions (No. 87).
- (e) Recruitment of Labour for Fernando Po and Kameroun Republic (No. 90).
- (f) Public Holidays (No. 92).
- (g) Tarring of Abakaliki-Ikom Road (No. 97).
- (h) Ammunition Factory (No. 60).

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Sir, I beg to make the following Business Statement for the week-ending on Thursday the 20th April, 1961.

Monday, 17th April, Committee of Supply, Fourth day.

Tuesday, 18th April : Private Members' Day. On the same day, I shall move the following affirmative resolutions :

- (1) Customs Tariff Duty and Exemption No. 8 Order, 1960.
- (2) Customs Tariff Duty and Exemption No. 9 Order, 1960.
- (3) Customs Tariff Duty and Exemption No. 10 Order, 1960.
- (4) Excise Duties (Amendment) No. 3 Order, 1960.
- (5) Capital Expenditure Estimates, Head 601 to 605, 1960-1962.

(6) Customs Tariff Duty and Exemption Order, 1961.

Wednesday, 19th April : Committee of Supply, Fifth Day.

Thursday, 20th April : (1) I shall move suspension of Standing Order ; (2) Committee of Supply, Sixth and Final Day, Capital Budget ; (3) Government Motions : Transfers of Development Fund of excess above £500,000 in the Consolidated Revenue Fund as at the 31st day of March, 1961 ; (4) Second and Third Readings of the remaining Bills ; and it is proposed, Sir, that on that day, the House will adjourn *sine die*.

ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1961-62) BILL

(THIRD ALLOTTED DAY) : Considered in Committee of Supply.

House in Committee

HEAD 36—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question proposed, That £3,257,570 for Head 36—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I have only few observations to make on this Head. This House is aware of the amount of work which has been done by the hon. Minister of Education.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : On a point of Order, Mr Chairman. My name is first on the Order Paper for Amendments and according to Standing Orders, I think I should be called first.

The Chairman : You will be called later on. You see, it is good parliamentary practice that preference should be given to the Opposition in the first instance to criticize Government Policy. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr P. E. Ekanem : Mr Chairman, Sir, I have been to all the nooks and corners of Lagos and I am quite happy with the school buildings around ; I do not investigate at night as my hon. Friend, the Minister of Labour !

I have every praise for the Federal Minister of Education for the magnificent school buildings set up all over the Federal territory.

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You will agree with me, Sir, that good school buildings are conducive to learning and, I think, that it is a good thing that the Federal territory is leading the Regions.

I now come to secondary education. Some-time ago, it was published in the newspapers, broadcast on the radio and even said in this House that we should soon be having inter-regional secondary schools. At the moment, we have more primary schools in the country than secondary schools and, I think, the emphasis should be on secondary education. As far as the establishment of secondary schools is concerned the Regions are trying their best and I feel there will be no harm if the Federal Minister of Education lends a helping hand.

I also wish to comment on the annual intake of students into King's College and Queen's College. I feel, Sir, that the quota of the present intake of students into these schools should be doubled. On entrance examinations to secondary schools, I think it is high time entrance examinations to Secondary schools were scrapped. There are many teachers in this House and, although I am no longer a teacher, I think I can very well say that I was a teacher for many years, and I know that examination is not a true test of a student's ability.

I am sure that every teacher will agree with me that examination is not a true test of a pupil's ability to assimilate what he is being taught. Many of our boys are being denied secondary education and are left to suffer and roam about the streets because they cannot pass the entrance examination to secondary schools whilst, in actual fact, in their class work they do very well. Also, I do not know why children should be required to pay for entrance examinations to secondary schools. There should be no fees. We want the liberal system of education in this country. I can see no reason why a child should be charged 2s-6d or 5s-0d because he wants to take the entrance examination to a secondary school.

Sir, I am also of the opinion that the intake of children into secondary schools should be increased. If secondary schools at the moment each take fifty students every year the quota should be increased to 100 or even 200.

Secondary schools in the Federal territory should be allowed to double their present intake of students. There are many children roaming about the streets simply because they cannot get into secondary schools. I am happy the Minister of Education has travelled far and wide in search of educational experts and materials for this country. We do not grudge his travels; in fact we want him to travel all the more and bring us the modern system of education.

Many of our boys have gone overseas to study. I can see in the Estimates—*Inducement Allowance*. As I said in January there should be no discrimination in the payment of inducement allowance. Inducement allowance is no bribery, Sir; it is paid for good work by any expatriate in this country. I am repeating that there should be no discrimination in the payment of inducement allowance. If you are able to induce an expatriate you must equally induce Nigerians. If there is going to be discrimination in the payment of inducement it should be scrapped from all Heads of the Estimates because there is nothing that an expatriate in the educational field can do that our boys here cannot do. We have many educationists in this country. Inducement allowance should not be paid to expatriates alone. If you are to induce expatriates then you must also induce our boys.

As I have said, the Federal Minister of Education is doing his best but I would say that I have not heard anything about adult education. A large sum of money should be voted for this aspect of education. Education has no age limit, otherwise some of our retired men will not go to the United Kingdom to read Law in Universities and come back to become Magistrates. More money should be spent on adult education. There should be mass adult education in this country; employ more adult teachers and more adult education officers.

More money should also be spent on Domestic Science. At present in Lagos, there are very few Domestic Science Centres scattered about. I have been to two of these centres and the equipment there is not good. There are very few materials to study with and, I appeal to this Government to spend more on this aspect of education.

I now come to the Yaba Technical Institute which I think is one of the Centres under the portfolio of the Federal Minister of Education. A few minutes ago, I spoke about entrance examinations. I am quite satisfied with the equipment in the School, but our boys in the provinces find it difficult to pass the entrance examination to that Institute. Why? It is because certain people have long hands, long legs and long tongues. It is very difficult for any boy living in the Regions to pass the entrance examination to that Institute and, so, the entrance examination to that school or that Technical College should be scrapped.

Our boys are suffering, even if they come down to Lagos, once they cannot speak the local language they find it difficult even to see the Principal. I am speaking from experience and I am of the opinion that the entrance examination to the Yaba Technical Institute should be scrapped. Interviews should be conducted at Regional levels and they should not just bring our boys down to Lagos to suffer. The Minister of Education should authorise the Regional Ministries of Education to conduct interviews in the Regions instead of sending our boys down here.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the time has come when the Ministry of Education should establish, apart from the Agricultural School at Umudike, one at—(Interruption). Mr Chairman, you will bear me out that it is traditional in the House of Commons, as I said the other day, that Parliamentary Secretaries should maintain silence, and if the Parliamentary Secretaries in this House cannot maintain silence then it is no use appointing them Parliamentary Secretaries.

The Chairman : That is irrelevant to the speech on the Head.

Mr Ekanem : All right, Sir. I was saying that the time has come when this Ministry should not always say they have an agricultural school at Umudike and another one at Moor Plantation, Ibadan. Arrangements should be made to establish more agricultural schools all over the country. In my school days agriculture was a compulsory subject in school. The Ministry of Education should make agriculture a compulsory subject in schools in order that when a boy leaves school he can go back to the land and leave seeking the white-collar job. If there is anybody here

who will say that as far back as 1930 or before then that agriculture was not a compulsory subject in schools then that man has never been to school—(Interruption).

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East) : Point of order, Mr Chairman. The hon. Member does not seem to be aware of the fact that Lagos has no land unless the boundary is extended.

The Chairman : That is a point of information.

Mr Ekanem : Mr Chairman, what I am trying to say is that in the curriculum for secondary schools there should be agriculture as a compulsory subject in order to train our boys and girls to go back to the land. (Hear, hear). When we were in school, and Mr Abii will bear me out, we were compelled to work in the school garden, but to-day most of the schools have no gardens. There are no school farms because that is not found in the curriculum of present-day schools.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, Sir, I would say that if there is any Ministry which deserves my personal gratitude it is that of the Minister of Education if only he will take the few observations I have made.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not move.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members will agree with me that this is one of the most valuable Ministries in the whole of our governmental set up by reason of its ramified and diversified functions. By the same token, Mr Chairman, hon. Members will agree with me, I have no doubt, that this Ministry is by all standards one of the best run of all the Ministries in the Government. (Hear, hear) I have no intention to embarrass the Minister, his Parliamentary Secretary and his team of workers by this seemingly extravagant but well-calculated expression of commendation which is also a reflection of what people outside feel and say about them.

When Alfred Marshall was struggling with the odd job of making economics a science, he one day declared: "I am looking forward to a time when young men and women with a cool head and warm heart will come into this discipline". The hon. Minister of Education certainly possesses the cool head and the

[DR NZERIBE]

warm heart and what is more the intellectual honesty and humility, the characteristics which qualify him as the right man in the right place.

We are happy, Mr Chairman, about the Minister's determination to implement the recommendation of the Ashby Report. It is, however, important to point out that because of the present speed at which the economic data in this country are moving, extreme care should be taken occasionally to review the priorities and the sequence of events.

I also want to congratulate the Minister on the recent appointment of a Nigerian as the Federal Government Adviser on Education. This is a down to earth approach and a recognition of intelligence for which we have been clamouring in this House. There are such things as million pound and million dollar ideas and every country or any Government which is keen on development must tap the resources of its intelligentsia.

I now come to specific suggestions. First, commercial colleges in Nigeria. It is a sad irony, Sir, that day by day commercial colleges in Nigeria are increasingly becoming objects of ridicule and a dumping ground. It is my modest assumption that less than 5 per cent of the students who enter commercial colleges in Nigeria ever become usefully employed at the end of their course. They assume the characteristic of the island of Molucca—"those who enter here leave hope behind". It is not that the country does not need commercial colleges. The irony lies in the fact that, stenographers, accountants, book-keepers, etc. are more needed in this country now than even students with grammar school education.

But these schools are by all indications run either for purely profit purposes or for exploitation purposes. Teachers are ill-qualified, and there is practically no equipment. I once saw a five-year course Commercial College with three hundred and sixty students having only five typewriters and on two of these five typewriters was written: "out of order, do not touch."

Again, Sir, the curriculum of these schools is terribly unrealistic. How do you expect a young boy or girl from our elementary school to-day to learn shorthand and typewriting

when he has no elementary idea of how to speak English and how to spell and write common words. In many of these schools subjects taught range from economics to Economic History of England, British Constitution and so on and so forth. Hundreds of boys and girls are seen every day carrying bogus R.S.A. certificates in British Constitution, Economic History of England and so on. What employer wants British Constitution, what employer wants Economic History of England? On the other hand, Sir, I feel that if the schools will become less ambitious territorially and concentrate on English, mathematics, two liberal arts subjects for the first three years and then shift emphasis to one of two commercial subjects at the end of the third or fourth year, the parents and children and Nigeria will be happy with the results. Government should therefore look into this and insist on good staffing and equipment.

My second point, Sir, is in connection with Government scholarship awards. I note with gratification that this Government are sponsoring the University of Nigeria in a number of ways. This is an excellent performance and demonstrates to disgruntled conservative elements elsewhere the wisdom of Aggrey's immortal statement: "I am proud of my colour, whoever is not proud of his colour is not worthy to live." This is Nigeria's own university and whosoever is not proud of it is not fit to live.

Now, I want to call your attention to the sufferings of many of our students in this University. Many young men and women have entered the University of Nigeria with the hope that they will get scholarship awards. Unfortunately, many of them have not been fortunate to get these awards. Part-time jobs and summer employments are limited at this stage of our development. The result is that many otherwise brilliant students are suffering a terrible handicap and extreme frustration. I am suggesting that the Minister of Education should look into this situation very closely and, if possible, make provision for a type of stipend to help these students to get over their difficulties. I also hope that the Government will extend their scholarship scheme to both the University of Nigeria and the University College in Ibadan this year.

While on this question of scholarship, I want to make a few more suggestions. The first is that the Government should, as far as possible, restrict awards tenable overseas to those pursuing courses not easily tenable in Nigeria or West Africa. Secondly, only advanced courses leading to advanced degrees or special in-service training need be pursued overseas. Thirdly, loan scholarship awards should not receive priority. Government should, as far as possible, establish a revolving fund, as a sort of trust, a pool, from which students can borrow money from time to time and pay back at the end of their courses. This is the secret behind the running of many overseas universities where loan grants are made to students from time to time so that at the end of their courses they pay back to the Government so that another student can borrow the same money and pursue his studies at the end of which he also pays back to the Government. Government funds are unlimited, and if this practice is pursued it will help Nigeria, not only now but in the future.

Fourthly, Government scholarship awards should, as far as possible, be tailored to the master plan of our economic development. The time has come for stock taking; we are going to ask ourselves: "now what are the priorities? What will our need be in the next two years, in the next five years, in the next ten years or even in the next twenty years?"

I am told, for example, that many nurses trained overseas are now finding it impossible and very difficult to get employment in Nigeria. This is an example of over-production and lack of planning. I am not casting aspersions here in the Ministry of Education for which I have the highest respect but I am saying that all the branches of Government should take stock of their needs and priorities and that the Government plan for scholarships should be tailored to these needs and priorities.

Lastly, I would like to suggest that Government should set up liaison between the Nigerian Government and certain overseas universities having African centres. Students doing advanced work should be sent to these African centres where personnel and materials for Nigerians are available—places like the Oxford University, Boston University, North Western University, Manchester University, Stanford Research Institute and other similar institutions.

I will conclude with a few points on the teaching of civics in our schools. When I made my Motion last Tuesday I pointed out that one of the causes of bribery and corruption in Nigeria is the lack of civic intelligence and that is what I call civic illiteracy. It is amazing how many of our boys and girls know that Government does not spend money at its will. It is amazing how many of us realise in this country that the Minister of Finance does not keep Government money in his house. It is amazing how many of us understand the basic tenets of democracy. And it is amazing how many of us understand why taxes are paid and the incidence of taxation and what it means to evade or to avoid taxes. It is amazing how many of us in this country understand what democracy means to me and to you and the heritage of democracy.

And one cannot over emphasise the need of an ideology in a society such as ours. Our country certainly needs a new philosophy of life. One of the most important lessons to be learnt is that in social change what people think and how they think are the basic determinance of their behaviour. Although we cannot go into the sociology of the influences that shape group ideas, once formed group ideas become in themselves independent factors. Lord Keynes of England whose own ideas and theories have moved men profoundly said, "The ideas of educators, economists, political philosophers are more powerful than is commonly understood. Indeed, the world is ruled by little else. I am sure that the power of vested interest is vastly exaggerated compared with a gradual encroachment of new idea".

Ideology is necessary in a young developing country. An ideology is a cluster of ideas about life, about society and about Government which originate, in most cases, as consciously advocated or asserted, social, political, religious or economic slogans or battle cries. It was the ideas of Azikiwe, Macaulay, Awolowo and our Prime Minister—

The Chairman : This is not under Education, is it ?

Dr Nzeribe : I am speaking on the importance of ideas in shaping the curriculum of a school in an independent country like Nigeria. I am trying to emphasise, Sir, that unless our

Finally, Sir, I would like this Ministry to implement as much as possible—I say this because I have to bear in mind our resources, I have to bear in mind that we cannot do the impossible—but efforts should be made to

from the beginning has been a legal school; the architectural design of the building is that of a school; everything about it is that of a school. I built it in 1947 with about £7,000 which means about £70,000 to-day.

The Chairman : When you raise a point of explanation, I think you must do so on the facts supplied by the hon. Member speaking, not on remarks made by somebody interrupting, I do not think that is a point of information at all.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (Mr M. Amechi) : Mr Chairman, I am grateful to the hon. Member who has informed me that he has this school in Lagos. But I want to explain, Sir—

The Chairman : Order. It is surprising that Members wish to debate on interjections. I shall not allow that. Mr Dada may proceed.

Mr Dada : The third point is the expensive running of our Federal institutions. I have to refer to the running of the King's College. That is a single institution having 9 clerks. It has a Principal, a Vice-Principal and 22 teachers, and yet it is maintaining 9 clerks. The same thing applies to the Technical Institute. I believe this is a colossal waste of the country's revenue.

The fourth point is the running of the Federal Emergency Science Training Centre. I do not know whether this is not another half-way measure. I would like the Minister to explain whether it is another college of arts, science and technology or simply a secondary school offering courses for the Higher School Certificate. I think we ought to know this, otherwise I will regard it as a superfluous institution because it does not train people for any definite profession: it only gives general education.

I would therefore, like to suggest an improvement in the Ministry. In the professional side of the Ministry of Education, the number of advisers should be reduced to two educational advisers and two assistant educational advisers. The Administrative Section of the Education Department should be separated from the Inspectorate Section. At present we do not know who of the officers are in charge of inspection or in charge of the professional side.

I understand that the primary schools have now been transferred to the Lagos Town Council. Well, this may be good in a way but I would like the inspection of all the schools

run by the Lagos Town Council to be taken over by the Federal Ministry of Education while the administrative work should be done by the L.T.C.

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

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : Mr Chairman, Sir, immediately I got up I heard from both sides of the House that it is too soon for me to reply. But my reply does not preclude Members from making their points. I only want to speak in the way of a great man who, when he was being praised, said he was constrained to make a long and short speech. And he started by saying that his short speech will be "thank you" and his long speech "thank you very much". I am saying "thank you" to the hon. Members who have contributed to the debate on the Head of Estimates for education in Lagos.

Mr Ekanem made many points and he was supported by other Members who spoke after him. He spoke of secondary education and Inter-Regional secondary education. I have to say that the whole question of the establishment of inter-Regional secondary schools in the Regions is receiving the attention of my colleagues from the Regions, and no sooner this consultation is over than we shall have to look for sites where these inter-Regional secondary schools should be sited.

He went further to say that there should be no entrance examination to our secondary schools in Lagos. While I appreciate the very good gesture of hon. Ekanem and his good intention in making this point, I hope he is not suggesting that there should be no examination for boys who have completed their courses for the West African School Certificate, and that for people who enter universities there should be no examination at the end of their course, when they expect to be awarded degrees.

He also said that there should be no fees paid when boys are seeking to sit entrance examination to any of the secondary schools. I have to remind him that there are many writing materials which are being provided and we have to pay fairly nominal sums to the invigilators who conduct these examinations.

And he mentioned adult education and domestic science centres. If he would make time to go to our Adult Education Centre he

will realise that every year we award over 200 certificates to adults in Lagos, and that Government has been able to establish two Domestic Science Centres in Lagos. And in some of our girls' schools, domestic science is part of the school subjects.

An hon. Member : Why mention only Lagos ; what of the Regions ?

The Minister of Education : I have to mention Lagos because I am responsible for education in Lagos. You know very well that education is decentralised. The point you make in connection with the Regions will be conveyed to my colleagues by me in our consultative body which meets occasionally.

Hon. Ekanem mentioned the question of Technical Institute. He described the Technical Institute as having long leg, long hand. I have not seen any long leg or long hand. (*Laughter*).

An hon. Member : What of long nose ? (*Laughter*).

The Minister of Education : We have technical institutes all over the country and in all the Regions where we have them, boys and girls from that part of the country can easily be admitted into those Technical Institutes. That of Lagos is surely meant for the Federation.

Regarding the point made by Dr Nzeribe in connection with the Ashby Commission Report, I have to say that the Governments of the Federation have accepted the Ashby Commission Report in principle, and not long from now, before this House rises, I shall be laying on the Table of this House the White Paper on the Ashby Report. (*Hear, hear*).

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : Point of explanation, Mr Chairman. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there will be time for debate on this White Paper when he has submitted it.

The Minister of Education : Mr Chairman, Sir, my answer is "yes". There will be time.

We have in Lagos two recognised Government Commercial Colleges, one at St. Finbarrs' and one in Apapa, and we have left the door open to people from different parts of

the country to seek admission into these commercial schools. These commercial schools are recognised by the famous Pitman's Institute and their representatives have made occasional visits to these commercial schools to assess the progress so far made.

I do not know of any bogus R.S.A. certificate. If there is any such thing brought to our notice and we find that it is true that it is bogus, well, we will allow the law to take its course.

He has mentioned the question of Government scholarship awards to our local institutes of Higher Education. He knows very well that the policy of the Federal Government in the awards of scholarship is to see that our local institutions are first filled. We have the U.C.I. at Ibadan and the University of Nigeria at Nsukka. These two institutions must have our boys and girls first before going to think of any other country in West Africa or overseas. (*Hear, hear*). We have always done our best to send our Government scholars to Ibadan and Nsukka, Fourah Bay, to the University in Ghana, and also to U.K. and America and other parts of Europe.

An hon. Member : What of Russia ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (Hon. Amechi) : The people are going to the moon ; you are wasting your time with them.

The Minister of Education : Dr Nzeribe also appealed to the Ministry to have films and audio-visual aid. I can tell him that we have already started this, that it is not a new innovation. It is a thing we have started doing for a long time now.

My answer to Shettima Ali Monguno is the same as what I have said on the points made by hon. Ekanem and Dr Nzeribe on inter-Regional Secondary Schools. There is only one thing I would like him to know. He was saying that some individuals, when they see Northerners in our native attires, think they are uneducated. I have to tell him that it is not the hood that makes the monk. (*Hear, hear*).

An hon. Member : And it is not the *agbada* that makes the Minister. (*Laughter*).

[MR OGBALU]

African Studies. I think that an establishment of a college for international studies in this country will pay us a greater dividend than at present. For example, I cannot see why somebody who wants to study in this way should go to the School of Oriental Languages in London. Sir, I think it is really a waste of the country's money for us to continue to grant subventions to these foreign institutions which were formerly set up in order to encourage imperial masters to come into this country to understand the psychology and mentality of the Africans. We must have to establish similar institutions in this country. If the British people, or the Americans, want to establish schools which will study our languages, well, it is their own business and they have to use their own money in order to establish similar colleges.

One other point I want to make is the fact that sometime ago the Minister of Education mentioned that his own Department would be ready to subsidise and help everyone interested in writing in this country, but I have to say that it is not merely having the intention, there must be a positive step forward in order to encourage indigenous African authors wherever they may be. We have got many Associations like the African Authors Association, of which we are proud that the Vice Principal of the University of Nigeria is the President. It is therefore a very responsible organisation which ought to have received Government assistance and Government commendation.

I do not want to occupy most of the time, which other hon. Members may wish to use.

Question put and agreed to.

£3,257,570 for Head 36—Ministry of Education—agreed to.

HEAD 37.—ANTIQUITIES

£54,240 for Head 37—Antiquities—agreed to.

HEAD 38.—ARCHIVES

£46,900 for Head 38—National Archives—agreed to.

HEAD 39.—MINISTRY OF ESTABLISHMENTS AND SERVICE MATTERS

Question, That £464,850 for Head 39—Ministry of Establishments and Service Matters—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North East): Mr Chairman, Sir, when I spoke on this Head last year, I mentioned a number of points, one of them being the re-organisation of the Nigerianisation section of the Ministry. I am happy, (and I congratulate the Minister for it) that since then two of the three things which I mentioned have been done.

One of them is to arrange for a pooling up of all the possible man-power in the country. I see from the answer which the Minister gave to a question during the current sitting, that a recruitment section and a record section have been set up with an up to-date list of people and careers possible in the country. But what I want to say on this point is that what has been done so far is related only to careers and opportunities within the Federal Public Service alone. That is not sufficient, and it is not adequate.

What I suggested last year was that, in full co-ordination with the other Governments of this Federation and the Nigeria Office in London, there should be an up-to-date index record of all the possibilities and potentialities of our men in training, of those who are working and of those who are not even in Government Service, who can be called up to serve in fields for which they are most fitted. I do not consider that it is too much to call upon somebody to change occupation if it is in the interest of the country as a whole. That is one point.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I still feel very strongly that this Ministry generally handles this point with levity and not with all the seriousness that it deserves. Considering our need for man-power, at the rate at which we progress and at the rate at which the Ministry of Establishment and Service Matters is Nigerianising, it will take us more than even Ashby's suggestion before we reach anywhere.

I congratulate the Minister for what has been done so far and other Ministers in the Government in general, for the number of Nigerians who have been elevated to key posts. But what I am saying is that the rate at which this is done is so slow that in another 20 years we shall not be much distant from what we are doing just now. We shall still have a long, long way to go. What I suggested, and what I still want to suggest again is this.

The gap between policy making posts which are attained by Nigerians and the lower sector of what you call the Federal Public Service is so great that, even when the people whom you put on top begin to retire, and most of them are nearing retiring age, you will not find people who are getting ready to step into their shoes.

In one or two instances, some two or three Ministries, like the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Finance, have two or three people immediately below the policy making people who can step up, but even from there right down you still find a long gap. I want to give an example, Mr Chairman. This example fortunately or unfortunately is a technical one, but it is to prove what I am trying to say. Last year in the Meteorological Department of the Ministry of Communications, a Nigerian was promoted Deputy Director, but between this Deputy Director and the place where you find Nigerians who are Meteorological Officers there are 9 other places all occupied by expatriates. And the qualifications of these expatriates are not better than what the people who are below them have. The candidates to which I refer have as their highest qualifications an intermediate degree of a University. The posts between Principal Meteorological Officer and Senior Meteorological Officer are all occupied by expatriates. Then Senior Meteorological Superintendent where you have just two Africans, one of them being promoted and the other African and a white man being put there. You find in the Meteorological Officers posts that six Nigerians who are not only graduates, but have been sent to Britain to have practical and professional experience are not being pushed up at all and this wide gap of about 7 or 9 vacancies have been filled by expatriates and the other people are then left there to vegetate. That is an example. You have got to encourage these young men and, unless you put them in these posts, they will just gain nothing.

I congratulate the Minister of Communications for his ability in handling the crisis that might have occurred last week, but the root cause of that trouble I think should be examined more than it has been. The root cause, as I have just said, is that those people who are below these expatriates and who are better qualified than they are, are not pushed up. These expatriates are not better qualified as

you will find if you go to the technical branch of that Ministry. That is the situation, Mr Chairman and that goes for many others, but I have just given this as an example.

I mentioned a few minutes ago, Mr Chairman the recruitment section of the Nigerianisation Department where just now you have what the Minister describes as a Recruitment Division. There he says there is a Careers Officer, but to my mind, Mr Chairman, that is a specialist post. My information is that the officer who has been appointed is not a specialist and I am sure that between the rank and file of that Ministry—or anywhere else if you feel you cannot find in that Ministry—you can find somebody who has wide experience to do this specialist job of a Careers Officer. Someone who will do exactly what he is asked to do and do it properly. You may have all the goodwill in this world to nigerianise, you may have a “good-record” officer, but if you do not have a person who knows how to put the proper peg in the proper hole, he will still be making the same mistake and all the efforts you made to get good records will obviously be to no avail.

Now, Mr Chairman, I have one word about promotions. Several times on the Floor of this House and in this present Session, a number of allegations have been made about promotions and almost every one of them has been refuted by Government. What I want to stress is this. Nobody is witch-hunting. Nobody goes out to find out what is happening and what is not. This information comes continuously to Members on both sides of this House. There is no smoke without fire. We said on the Floor of this House that the best person must be given the job. If ‘X’ is given the job for which ‘Y’ is better qualified because ‘X’ has somebody or some relation in one quarter or another it savours of favouritism. All I think the Government ought to do is to search their hearts and to remedy the situation. It is not enough to appear to be playing fair: you must make not only this House but the public know that you are playing fair and you must win the confidence not only of this House, but also of the people outside who are more concerned.

Mr Chairman, Sir, a good number of our men are very well-qualified and are prepared to do one job or another but they have been sent overseas to play the “good boy” for the country.

[MR AKOMOLAFE]

I think, Sir, that here in Nigeria is the place we need the best of our men. No country which is well organised sends the best of her men outside. Wherever anybody may be outside this country he can only carry out the policy which is made on the Floor of this House and by your Cabinet and therefore you need the best of your men here in this country where the policy is being made. We must have the best men in this country and we have a lot of them, so I do not think that it is very wise sending these people outside in the name of calling them some big names. What we would normally expect people to read into such attitude is that they are being pushed out of the show so that somebody else may take their place. I am not alleging it, but I think that is what people appear to be doing. I think the best we can do is, wherever you have our best men, bring them to this country to advise the Cabinet.

Sometime ago, I heard in this House, I suppose from no less a person than the hon. Minister of Finance who said that people are not necessarily expert because they have a lot of degrees or something. But I say, Sir, that in any country, especially in a newly developing country, the intellectuals matter most. I think that is wrong, Mr Chairman. Planning in our country here is being muddled up. There should be a proper system of planning, Mr Chairman, if you want to have the best men in the Public Service of this country. Whether the planning is for economy or for man-power, there should be planning at expert level and there should be additional planning at the political level. Get the experts to do the job, and submit their reports to the politicians who can then make use of them. It is not sufficient to have a few experts mingling with the politicians and mixing up policies, mixing up professional policy with political policy.

Incidentally, so much money is being put under this Head for a planning section in this Ministry and I think this section should be re-organised so that we can have the right type of people who can do the planning at the professional level, so that it will result in better advantage to the Minister and the country.

The Federal Training Centre, Mr Chairman, Sir, to my mind, is having a handful of people training in Kaduna for some special courses suited to that place and a number of places in Lagos for stenographers is not enough for our needs. If we are going to have the manpower which we require especially for the upper segment of reporting and so on which we need in all the Ministries in this country, it is not sufficient that the Training Centre in Lagos should cater for about a hundred people and the one in Kaduna to cater for a hundred people. We require a lot of experts to be able to train these people properly. I think we should have a big Federal Training Centre. I am not saying that it must be in Lagos, it may be in Kaduna or in Enugu. But instead of these small ones, we need a large institution—in a large place where all of them would not have to stay in a boarding house either in Lagos, Kaduna, Ibadan, or Enugu. We want a large place where we can train about a thousand people at a time, where you can have a big centre and where we can produce these men and women in large numbers so as to satisfy our needs of stenographers, reporters, confidential secretaries—all the grades of these people who up till to-day are being imported at a higher cost to this country.

Mr Chairman, Sir, in any country, the Public Service Commission is the greatest institution apart from the political set-up of such a country. The personnel of such a Commission, corporately and individually, must be men of the highest calibre, of unimpeachable integrity and men who know exactly what their job is. They are the greatest advisers of the Government. If the money which the Minister of Finance wants, either by tax or by loan or by internal saving is to be well used, the Public Service Commission should consist of men of the highest integrity. Under our recruitment arrangement, if you want to interview persons in certain fields and you bring them before members of the Public Service Commission who do not know exactly what are the requirements for such fields, the Public Service Commission may not know exactly what questions to put to such candidates. That is why I feel, Sir, that wherever we can the smallest village, the remotest corner in the North, in the East or the West, you must make the Public Service Commission individually and collectively have the highest men this country can afford.

I am not satisfied, Mr Chairman that there is sufficient co-ordination between this particular Ministry and the other Ministries which need the men which this Ministry is supposed to be supplying. I still feel that apart from the Establishments Board or by whatever name it goes, there ought to be an advisory committee to the Minister on which top people of every Ministry will serve and give advice to the Public Service Commission from time to time so that posts will be filled without any prejudice at all and the right person put in the right place. I think co-ordination is still very necessary.

Mr Chairman, Sir, we shall wait to see what White Paper the Minister of Education is going to lay on the Table of this House on the Ashby Commission Report but may I say that reading through Ashby Report and reading through a short report issued by Harbinson, I see an urgent need of either a Parliamentary committee or a professional commission to sit down and work out practically the issues which arise from this Report.

Harbinson and Ashby believe that at the rate of our progress just now, in 10 years we should still not have got 50 per cent of our men and he has suggested accelerated rate at which we should have the men we require. He suggested the building of a number of institutions; he suggested going abroad to get people. (The Minister of Finance should listen to me carefully and take in what I am saying, I think it will help so much). That is why I ask quite seriously and sincerely that there ought to be either a Parliamentary committee to sit down and work out details of how to put into effect the suggestions which have been given by Ashby and Harbinson. Let it be on a professional level if you like but there must be immediately a national commission or committee to work out the proposals which have been suggested. Really, I am not suggesting that this should be worked out for the Federal Government alone. I think that should be a national issue and all the Regional Governments of the Federation should be invited to serve.

Now, Mr Chairman, my last and I think the most important point is this, that the Ministry of Establishments, to be of greatest advantage to us, must be given greater importance. It should have at the very head some-

body who like one or two other Friends of mine in the Government Bench, is the proper person who knows the needs of such a Ministry.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

M. Abba Yola (Wudil): Mr Chairman, Sir, I support this Bill.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I think I am entitled to move my amendment of item (2) of sub-head 1.

The Chairman: I will allow, with the permission of the House, Members to debate on the Heads generally unless it is the wish of the Member particularly to move.

M. Yola: In supporting this Bill, I observe certain things which I think this House should consider and for which we should find solution. It is very bitter to observe day in day out that naked facts are not required nowadays but flattery and lip services. However, I believe this House will agree with me that it is regrettable that embezzlement of public funds both in the Civil Service and in private enterprise in this country is more prevalent among Nigerian officers but rare among expatriates. Unless this practice is stopped by all means, the financial position of this country will not be safe. I am not doubting the financial integrity of all Nigerian officers but a few have given example of this evil.

Mr Chairman, Sir, in support of my statement. I would like to quote the "*Daily Times*" of the 10th of January which reported the case of one Mr Patrick J. Osoba, former Managing Director of the defunct Merchant Bank Ltd., Lagos on a theft charge of £35,000. This appears on the front page of the paper. Also appearing on the back page of the "*Daily Times*" of February 7, 1961 one Chief Emmanuel Sosanya, a Customary Court Judge in Western Nigeria was charged with stealing £2,500.

Mr M. A. Omisade (Ife Town): The hon. Member speaking has been grossly irrelevant. We are discussing Heads of Establishments and I do not know what the Managing Director or any Customary Court member has to do with that.

The Chairman: This is the stage we can discuss details. I think he is trying to support his own facts.

M. Yola : And another sum of £400 belonging to the Warri District Council.

Chief Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : On a point of order. We are discussing a particular Head of Estimates for the Ministry of Establishments and the names being referred to by the hon. Member are names of private business men and the amounts involved are amounts of private people and not Government money.

The Chairman : Order, order. I do agree that the hon. Member is irrelevant.

M. Yola : Well, that Customary Court Judge was charged : he was trying to steal £2,500.

Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi (Oshun South East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, your rulings must be observed in this hon. House and you have just said that somebody is out of order in that his speech is irrelevant, but he continues with the same speech. I think something must be done about this.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On point of explanation, Sir, I think that we are discussing establishments generally and, as I understand it, what my hon. Friend is trying to say is that people employed in Government services throughout the Federation must be people of integrity, and he was referring to the Customary Court Judges employed in the Western Region as a fine example to support his case.

The Chairman : Order, order. I think Mallam Abba Yola should be allowed to continue his speech.

M. Yola : Mr Chairman, Sir, as the Judge was found guilty on both counts by the Chief Magistrate's Court, he was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : On a point of order. In respect of this case, this matter is *sub judice*, and according to the Standing Order, it cannot be discussed in this House.

The Chairman : You mean that the case is still going on in the Court ?

Mr Akin-Olugbade : Yes.

The Chairman : The hon. Member cannot discuss it.

M. Yola : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring to the attention of the Ministry, on this Head, a duty which it owes the Government, and that is, the employment of Northerners in the Federal Public Service. I observe that Northerners are not employed in the Federal Public Service, just Southerners. The number of Northerners in the Southern Public Services is very very small as compared with Southerners in the Northern Public Service holding high posts and being employed everywhere throughout the Northern Region.

Well, Sir, this policy is the policy of the Western Nigeria Government, where only those who come from the Region and are the supporters of the Party in power are being employed in the Western Public Service. You cannot get a single Northerner or Easterner in the Western Region being employed as a public servant, even as a carpenter. No Northerner will submit his application to the Western Government because he knows that his application will not be considered.

The Chairman : Order, order. We are discussing Civil Service in the Federal Government, not in the West Regional Government.

M. Yola : In conclusion, I would like the Minister concerned to consider Northerners when there are vacancies in the Federal Public Service.

With these few remarks, Sir, I support the Head.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I have to congratulate the Minister of Establishments for the effort the Federal Government is making to implement the policy of Nigerianisation. This is one of the most important issues in the establishment of the Federal Public Service.

Nigeria, as an Independent nation, wants her men and women to dominate her Civil Service. The Civil Service of this country is dominated by expatriates, and something must be done in order to get qualified Nigerians to man the Service of the Federation.

Mr Chairman, I have noticed in the Estimates that in the Federal Training Centre, Lagos, we have only £6,800 provided for the training of Stenographers. This is not sufficient. I am sure that when these men and women come out one Ministry alone will be able to absorb them. What happens to other Ministries ?

If we really want the security of our nation, something must be done to get our young men and women trained to handle the affairs of the country. It is a known fact that nobody can see through another man's eyes. In order to maintain the security of our nation, we must make it a policy that no expatriate should serve as Secretary or Secretary-Typist in this country. If we investigate the activities of other nationals in this country we will not be happy to learn of what is going on. If we are desirous of the good running of our Government Nigerians must be placed in posts where they will be able to watch the interest of our country.

You will not blame those expatriates who are here if their loyalty goes to their country of origin. They are sent here by their own people to watch their interest, even in Commercial field, Economic planning and trade. They represent the interests of their country. If there is any information in the Ministry they have to pass it on to their brothers whether they like it or not. They even make counter moves to frustrate the work of some Ministers. I am not very much against them, but what I am after, Mr Chairman, is that the interest of this country must be placed above all other things.

In the same estimates, Sir, under Clerical Assistants-in-Training we have £5,280 for 40 students. This is for the Federation of Nigeria. Forty students in training and yet we cry of quickening the pace of Nigerianisation. We cannot get on by sending in only 40 students for such training and hope to get our own men and women to man the affairs of the country. Mr Chairman, Sir, I am appealing to the Government and I am suggesting that the Government should take in as many as Government fund can manage to train our boys and girls to enable them take up appointments in the Federal Civil Service. It is a shame that after independence we still have European lady Stenographers in this House. They were trained by the British to do some part of the job that would benefit them, but now that we are free, we must think in terms of a free nation.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to make some more suggestions for the Federal Government to take up establishing other training

centres throughout the whole country, at least in some important towns in Nigeria and if possible to attach them to the secondary schools already established in the country. There are also some Commercial Schools in Nigeria. These schools are not encouraged. The Government should encourage them. It must be remembered that it is from them that we get our Stenographers who help us in the service. Nigerianisation is so urgent that something must be done to step up the pace and those who are concerned should see to it that all the important posts in the Federation of Nigeria are manned by Nigerians. For instance, there has been much cry against expatriates who serve as Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Under Secretaries, *et cetera*. I suggest that the Government should take immediate steps to see that they are replaced by Africans. This will enable us to carry out our policy of non-alignment which this Government has announced to the whole world. We surely cannot move faster with these posts held by foreign people who virtually serve the interest of their countries in our ministries.

Turning to the Recruitment of Staff, I am suggesting to the Federal Government to recall some of our retired officers in the country into the Civil Service instead of recruiting those who retired from service in India, Burma, and Ceylon. These people are still being recruited into this country on contract. Why is it not possible for the Government to recall some of our retired men who are strong and willing to serve. It is not necessarily that they are old. The fact is that since they have attained the age of retirement some of them had no choice but to retire. But they are still strong, with much experience and they can do the job. These men should be recalled as soon as possible instead of recruiting from overseas all those who have retired from the service in Burma, and India.

Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of Establishments and Service Matters (Alhaji Shehu Shagari): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have to thank hon. Members for the useful and very favourable comments they have made. I am really impressed by

[MINISTER OF ESTABLISHMENTS]

these comments made and particularly by the hon. Member, Mr Akomolafe who is very concerned about our present position with regard to the recent report of the Ashby Commission. But if the hon. Member would just bear with us a little, this Report is just now being considered, and the Government is really determined to see that the recommendations contained in that Report are really carried out as much as is possible. And of course, you cannot base our own position at the moment with what has been proposed by Professor Harbisson, because, his recommendations are just being considered; but I can assure the hon. Member that we are doing all we can to meet these recommendations.

The hon. Member has said that he is not satisfied with the pace of Nigerianisation. Well I can assure him that I am not satisfied myself, I would like to see Nigerianisation much faster, but we must be realistic at the pace at which it would move before it reaches 100 per cent. We have got to employ or engage people who are really competent enough to take over from the expatriates.

The hon. Gentleman will remember that in my speech during the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, I said that before Independence we had 809 expatriates on the pensionable grade, and that by the end of this year, 320 would have gone. That is really a remarkable progress because all these 320 places will have to be filled largely by Nigerians. (*Hear, hear*).

An hon. Member : All of them should go !

The Minister of Establishments : Yes, I agree, many more will go and they are going, but in the meantime we must get Nigerians of the right calibre to take over from them. We must not displace people indiscriminately.

The hon. Member also spoke on the gap between the junior and the senior service.

An hon. Member : On a point of order, Sir, Mr Ekanem is reading a newspaper.

The Chairman : Will Mr Ekanem please put away the paper.

The Minister of Establishments : I was saying, Sir, that the gap which the hon. Member referred to in his speech is the result

of rapid Nigerianisation. The expatriate officers are going at a fast rate, and we have to promote many more Nigerians to take over from them. That is the cause of the seeming gap which has existed.

An hon. Member also spoke about the Careers Officer who has been appointed in the Nigerianisation Office. Well, the post of Careers Officer has been recommended by the Nigerianisation Committee in their report; and I disagree with the suggestion that only a specialist can do a Careers Officer's job. The hon. Member is aware that in every secondary school, there is a Careers Officer and that this officer is not necessarily trained to be a Careers Officer as such. Any school master can be a careers officer in his school. In the Nigerianisation Office, before the appointment of a careers officer, we have been compiling what is known as "Careers Guide" in which prospective candidates who want to go into the Civil Service, may see all the prospects in the civil service. This Careers Guide, giving full information concerning prospects in the Federal Public Service and the qualifications required for certain posts and all the rest of it is now ready. This is practically what people want to know of our services, and this has been exhaustively compiled in the Ministry. It has taken two years to compile and, as I said, we have got in it everything that prospective candidates for the Public Service will require. Hon. Members will agree therefore, that this post requires a person who knows the country well, and who can go about with the people and explain things to them in plain language; not in a specialist language which cannot be understood by the people. We want a person who is social, who is approachable and also conversant with our problems as well as the problems of our people. (*Applause*).

Members will remember that, in my speech on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, I tried to explain the difference between the duties of the Ministry of Establishments and those of the Public Service Commission. It appears to me that there is still some confusion in the minds of hon. Members. I would like to point out that matters of promotion are matters entirely in the hands of the Federal Public Service Commission. The hon. Member spoke of favouritism of which I am not aware. So far as the Federal Public

Service is concerned, I am absolutely sure that there is absolute impartiality in matters of promotions. (*Hear, hear*). However, as I have said, this is a matter entirely in the hands of the Federal Public Service and it has nothing to do with my Ministry.

I am very glad that hon. Members are of the opinion that we should expand the Federal Training Centre. I am very glad to hear that, and I welcome their suggestion. Well, we have just started, and I think we have not done very badly. We have opened two centres, one in Lagos and another at Kaduna and if the hon. Member is unhappy that there is none at Ibadan,

An hon. Member : And Enugu.

The Minister of Establishments : The hon. Member at any rate, implied Ibadan in his speech. In any case I can assure him that Ibadan and any other town in Nigeria will get the benefit which is derived from these Federal Training Centres wherever they are located. Where the centres are located does not matter. I am glad to hear of the suggestion of expansion of these centres and I believe the Government will, as much as possible, try to expand this Centre. In fact, this year we intend to have an additional class in view of the fact that this Centre is almost becoming international, and other countries in West Africa have become interested in this centre. We have received a request from the Government of Liberia asking if we could accept ten of their students in our training centre. We are accepting them. (*Hear, hear*). (*Aye, aye*).

The Chairman : Order, order ! There should not be too much noise !

The Minister of Establishments : Well, it appears, Mr Chairman, that Members are fully satisfied with the reply I have given and I have nothing more than to thank them.

Question put and agreed to.

£464,850 for Head 39—Ministry of Establishments and Service Matters—agreed to.

HEAD 40—PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES

£526,150 for Head 40—Pensions and Gratuities—agreed to.

HEAD 41—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Question proposed, That £2,126,970 for Head 41—Ministry of Finance—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to direct the few remarks which I have to make this morning at the Minister himself, and I do wish that from his own seat he will keep cool. Now, I want to say, with all seriousness and with all objectivity that the hon. Minister of Finance, who is now the holder of that portfolio, has been too long in that position. I feel that this position is so important that on attainment of independence, the holder, who used to act in a colonial manner, should have been changed and a new person should have taken his place.

We have emerged into independence and the colonial finance policy which he followed before independence must be changed ; and does not expect a man who is so steeped in the colonial mentality to effect that type of change. I notice that even apart from this the hon. Minister of Finance interferes in every Ministry. It may be that he wants to make himself—

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) : On a point of explanation, Mr Chairman. Will *Tshombe* suggest anybody to take over from the Minister ?

Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi (Oshun South East) : On a point of order, Mr Chairman. I do not know when the hon. Member invented another name for this hon. Gentleman. There is no *Tshombe* in this House. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order. He did not imply the *Tshombe* of the Congo, I am sure. (*Laughter*).

Chief Rosiji : As I was saying, Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance seems to be interfering in every Ministry. His Ministry is enough for him and the sooner he stays there and confines himself to his work, which is very badly done at the moment, the better for everybody. I even find that as one of his methods of self-aggrandisement he now has a Minister of State. This Minister of State—

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North) : Point of Order, Mr Chairman. I do not know whether the hon. Member is discussing Head 41, Ministry of Finance, or discussing the appointment of the Finance Minister. I think he is labouring too much on this point

The Chairman : There has been no breach of order in his speech so far.

Chief Rosiji : Before I was unnecessarily interrupted, I was saying that there is now a Minister of State in that Ministry. The result is that this Minister of State is nothing but a messenger to the Minister of Finance. He seems to take files on errands from place to place as we have seen him do this morning. That is just my point. This Minister of State, who is a fairly old man, should have been treated with better respect than being made to trail behind the Minister of Finance like a messenger up and down the whole place.

Last year, during the Budget debate, I made very strong points on the loans policy of the Government, and I said in the course of my speech, that the Government must try and find money from within this country to carry out our projects. It is gratifying that the Minister of Finance has this year applied methods by which the internal financing of our projects can be done. Now, the Minister of Finance should be able to think of a matter like this instead of waiting until we cry and cry in this House for a whole year before anything is done.

We have not got, as I said earlier, and we have not been imbued with the spirit of independence. If we had acquired such a spirit, the Minister would not have waited to be told before he did the right type of thinking. I think that it is quite clear to all nationalists in this country that if you want to expand our economy, and to raise our standard of living, we must work hard and make sacrifices. We should not expect *manna* to fall from heaven. If we depend on overseas people almost wholly and solely, you can be sure that we are to that extent enslaving ourselves.

The Minister must also find out and project some means by which the productivity of this country will be raised. He should not just go along the groove that has been laid down during the colonial days. This is the day when we should be able to do things for ourselves and go all out to work for our own salvation.

I do not say, Mr Chairman, that we should rule out completely the raising of loans from overseas. I certainly would not say so. No

country can carry on absolutely without help from outside, but if help is coming from outside we must have made sure that we have exhausted all our own resources and we must have made all the sacrifices and used up all the efforts that we have, so that when we do go out to ask for help we must do so for specific purposes for which definite plans have been made. It is not right for us, for a country as big as Nigeria, to go out to-day and ask for £3 million loan from one country, then tomorrow another £3 million and so on and so forth. Nigeria is a big country, and when we go out to raise a loan, let us raise it the big way, for big projects, such as the Dam on the River Niger, that is a big project; not for £3 million somewhere to-day, another £2 million in another place tomorrow, £1 million the next day and so on, just like that. Surely we should be able to carry out the smaller projects ourselves, with our own efforts.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Chief O. Awolowo (Ijebu-Remo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I know that we are pressed for time and so I will be brief. I would wish, however, that we had had more time to discuss the Estimates of the Ministry of Finance. Last year, I called the attention of the hon. the Minister of Finance to the revenue position of the Federation. I then made certain suggestions, one of which is still relevant in view of the position of our revenue as disclosed in the present Estimates. That suggestion is in connection with the duty on manufactured cigarettes.

I suggested last year that this duty of half a penny on every stick of cigarette should be removed. I then pointed out that, if this was done, the revenue of the Government from this source would not be any less than it used to be. On the contrary, I pointed out, the revenue was sure to increase in view of the fact that there was plenty of money in circulation as a result of the *Mbanefo* and *Morgan* salary awards—*(Interruption)*.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima) : Point of Order, Mr Chairman. Will the Leader of the Opposition declare his interest in this particular case?

Chief Awolowo : Mr Chairman, Sir, I have no interest in any business. I am a politician pure and simple, and I am not interested in any business at all either here or elsewhere, either directly or indirectly.

I made the suggestion last year, that this duty on manufactured cigarettes should be removed and I pointed out, as I was saying, that the removal of the duty would bring about an increase in revenue to the Government, quite apart from easing the burden on the common man who has to buy cigarettes. But I notice, Sir, that this duty is retained and, as a result of the retention, the Government is losing revenue.

May I call the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance, and of this House, to the position as it is at present. Now at page 15, sub-head 3 (4), there the Government estimates for a sum of £4.03 million for the current year. Last year Government estimated for £4.3 million but the revised estimate is £4.255 million. In the previous year, 1959-60, the actual revenue was £4.272 million and in the year 1958-59 the revenue was about £4 million. In other words, as a result of this increase in duty we are back where we were in 1958-59. Why is the Minister of Finance persisting in imposing this duty ?

I have been trying to puzzle out the reason for myself and I have come to a certain conclusion which is purely circumstantial. I notice that the duty on unmanufactured tobacco imported into this country has gone down, not very much, but by about £½ million. It seems to me, therefore, that what the Government is doing is to assist the tobacco manufacturers in this country to push a particular brand of cigarettes which is manufactured from locally grown tobacco. This locally grown tobacco is being purchased at a very cheap price by the manufacturers. They therefore want to push that so as to be able to make profits for themselves, but in the meantime the Government is losing revenue.

I repeat, Sir, that the Government should remove this duty on cigarettes to ease the burden on the common man and to bring more money into the coffers of the Government. That is my first suggestion, Mr Chairman, Sir. And may I remind the Minister of Finance of the latin proverb which says : "It is given to

every man to make mistakes, but to persist in error is the height of unwisdom". The Government has made a mistake in imposing this duty. The Government anticipated that it was going to make as much as £1.2 million extra when the duty was imposed, but that hope was completely shattered and falsified. Government must own up its mistake and now reverse the position so as to boost the revenue of this country from this particular source.

The second point I wish to touch upon is the controversial one about the duties recently imposed on various articles imported from overseas. Well, the Minister of Finance in defending his action did say that he was very careful in choosing the items on which duties were imposed and that those items consisted of luxury goods. May I say, Sir, that I find it difficult to agree with the hon. Minister of Finance. Singlets and footwear, of certain kinds, and shirts are certainly not luxury goods. Bicycles may be luxury goods in Sapele and the Benin River areas, where people do not ride bicycles at all, but I am sure that the hon. Minister of Finance will agree that, in the Eastern Region, a bicycle is an indispensable commodity ; an indispensable necessity of life. Marine outboard motors, surely, are not luxuries in Benin River, and if the Minister of Finance disputes that I would like him to resign his seat here, go back there and tell them that marine outboard motors are luxuries, the people there to vote for him again so that he can come back here and make sure that the tax is collected.

What about handcrafts, called in the Yoruba language *Omolanke* ? They are not luxuries. What about stockfish ? That is not a luxury. What about hard implements, matchets, cutlasses and so on ? They are not luxuries. And then household utensils ? Those are not luxuries. I hope that the Minister of Finance will look into this matter more carefully. I agree that if we are to reduce our adverse balance of payments we must not only impose duties on certain articles which we import from abroad but I think the Minister of Finance must even go further and place restriction on the import of certain commodities. He will be supported if that is done but I think it is lopsided financial policy to impose duties on articles which are necessities and which the ordinary man in the street uses from time to time.

[CHIEF AWOLOWO]

May I say just one last thing. There are a lot of articles of luxury on which duties can be imposed. One of them will be mentioned. I did mention it last year, and I want to repeat it on this occasion, and I will continue repeating it until the Minister of Finance is receptive enough to accept the advice. Why do we not impose more duties on private motor vehicles? We can get as much money from that source as we are trying to get from those sources which I have just mentioned. Let the Government give very serious consideration to this proposal which I am going to make.

Any car which costs as much as £1,200, let us impose a duty of about forty to fifty per cent on it. And any car which costs more than that—we have to work out the details—let us make the duty one hundred per cent. If people want to ride big cars, let them go in for big cars and pay well for them. If the car costs £2,000 and Government says that I must pay £4,000, that is £2,000 duty, and I still want to ride a big car and consider that my personal prestige requires it then I should be prepared to pay £4,000. (*Applause*). And if I am not prepared to do that then the cars will remain where they are and we will content ourselves with small cars in this country.

But I do not think it is right that we should impose duty on goods which are consumed by the ordinary people, the common man as we say, and then leave the luxury goods to go, more or less, unscathed.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to leave my hon. Friend, Chief Ayo Rosiji alone in the meantime and comment on the sensible and constructive points made by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition. Although he made constructive and sensible points I must say that I cannot agree with him and so I would try to reply him.

Excise duty on manufactured cigarettes has not decreased at all but I admitted last year that the revenue which we thought we could earn by the increase on the excise duty was not realised. But it was not less than what was obtained in the previous year. That was what I said. (*Interruptions*). Sir, I also said that there were two factors responsible. The first was that Nigerians in general were used to

buying cigarette costing 1d and if you put it at 1½d or 2d no one will be interested in buying it. And as a result of this to-day the position has changed and a new brand of cigarettes which is costing 1d per stick has now been introduced and it is now selling well. Therefore, I am quite optimistic that the revenue which we expect to get from cigarettes this year will be realised. (*Hear, hear*).

The second point is that I said that as a result of smuggling at a very high scale initiated by the people from the so-called C.O.R. State area—Briggs' brothers and others in the Eastern Region. (*Interruptions*).

An hon. Member: What about Sapele?

The Minister of Finance: None at Sapele! Sir, I want the Leader of the Opposition to appeal to hon. Briggs very seriously to tell his brothers to stop smuggling in the so-called C.O.R. State area. (*Interruptions*).

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): Sir, I protest very strongly. All the smuggling is done in Benin River and in Sapele.

The Chairman: Order. Everybody knows that you are not a smuggler.

The Minister of Finance: But at least, Sir, he defends smugglers. Sir, I am sure that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition will agree and congratulate the Government for the stringent steps we have taken to combat smuggling. I mentioned in my speech the quantity of cigarettes that we have seized. We have seized millions of them. You will agree that the position is definitely bound to change. Sir, you will be surprised that on your left is sitting a gentleman whose village in Egba Division is a citadel of smugglers from the French territory. (*Interruptions*). Hon. Ajibola from Owode is another person encouraging Idiroko people to engage in smuggling across the border. The sooner these Members of the Opposition stopped encouraging and abetting smugglers the better for them and the better for the country as a whole. (*Hear, hear*).

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East): Sir, we appreciate jokes but it is not many of the people who read the *Hansard* will know that these are jokes especially when they are said in the constant way the Minister of Finance is doing now.

The Chairman : I think they are going a very long way.

The Minister of Finance : Sir, all I am trying to say is that I must admit that we are doing quite a lot to stop smuggling and I am appealing honestly not only to the Members of the Opposition but to the entire Members of the House to assist the Government by giving us information about the smugglers because they are doing us a great deal of harm.

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition also spoke about locally manufactured tobacco. The fact of this is that locally manufactured tobacco by itself cannot produce cigarettes because of its low quality. That is regrettable but that is the position. So, we cannot use our locally grown tobacco alone in producing any type of cigarettes unless we import the one from America. We are, therefore, bound to encourage that until we have developed our own to that standard that will enable us to use our own in manufacturing cigarettes.

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition also mentioned the duty levied on bicycle and out-board engine. Well, the position is this that I said that in levying the recent duties Government took so many things into consideration. One of them is to encourage local industries. The Leader of the Opposition will agree with me that already we have an efficient assembly plant for bicycles in Nigeria and therefore that industry must be protected. Recently, the Government granted a Pioneer's Certificate to a company that will manufacture bicycle in all its details in Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*). And that factory will have its supply of materials from the rolling mill and from the iron and steel industry that will soon be established in Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*). This rolling mill is under construction. Therefore, we impose duty in order to protect this industry.

With regard to out-board engine, I would like to say that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition unfortunately has no river at Ikenne so he cannot appreciate how many people are buying outboard engines only for driving on the high seas.

An hon. Member : That is in Lagos alone.

The Minister of Finance : Now, all over the country it is becoming a sort of hobby and the Government is not going to encourage that type of hobby and then allow people to bring out out-board engines.

These are the points made by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition and I am grateful for the points which he has made to enable me to give the Government's point of view.

I now go quickly to the points made by my hon. Friend, Chief Ayo Rosiji. My hon. Friend started by saying that I have been too long in the Ministry of Finance. I can appreciate the anxiety of the Action Group over my presence in the Ministry of Finance. But I can assure hon. Ayo Rosiji that as long as I enjoy the confidence of the hon. the Prime Minister and my colleagues in the Council of Ministers I will remain the Minister of Finance. (*Hear, hear*). What is worrying you is not 'Okotie-Eboh' but the efficient way in which the finances of the Federal Government have been handled. (*Hear, hear*). You have nothing to say to this. You have tried before to get rid of me by election petition and you failed and now you want to go through another dangerous way but I am sure you will also fail.

As regards the Ministers of State, the Ministry of State is an innovation again from the Western Region. In the Western Region, the government does not even have respectable people as Ministers of State, but bathroom boys, as attached Ministers in Ministries. But my Minister of State has got his responsibilities and is carrying them out most efficiently, as well as my Parliamentary Secretary.

The Chairman : As the moment of interruption has already passed I must put the Question necessary to bring to conclusion the Order of the Day up to the moment of interruption.

HEAD 41—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

£2,126,970 for Head 41—Ministry of Finance—agreed to.

HEAD 42—BOARD OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

£672,400 for Head 42—Board of Customs and Excise—agreed to.

HEAD 43—INLAND REVENUE

£225,290 for Head 43—Inland Revenue—agreed to.

Then the Chairman left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress—to sit again upon Monday next.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1959-60)
BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill entitled "An Act to make Supplementary Provision for the Service of the Federation of Nigeria for the year ended on the 31st day of March, 1960" be read a second time.

Sir, I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor-General to give his recommendation to the consideration of this Bill.

This Bill is of a kind to which we are not unaccustomed. It seeks the formal approval of Parliament for excess expenditure actually incurred during a previous financial year, the actual amount being a total of £526,114 under six different Heads of Expenditure in the financial year, 1959-60. In a utopian world of perfection there would, of course, be no need for such a Bill. Actual expenditure would agree precisely with the provision previously authorised by Parliament. There would be no misclassification of expenditure and no need for reconciliation of the vast number of individual payments actually made by the numerous paying officials of the Federal Government.

In practice, of course, we do not have such a world. In practice we know that errors do occur, and in practice my concern is not to conceal such errors in ostrich fashion but to ensure that they are kept to a minimum and progressively reduced in scale. It would, of course, be quite possible, by the device of presenting expenditure estimates inflated so as to be on the safe side, for Government to avoid possible criticism in Parliament for having allowed over-expenditure to occur. We prefer however to present what we believe to be realistic estimates and not to resort to any such subterfuge.

Looking now at the actual out-turn for 1959-60 the total revenue received during the year exceeded the estimate of revenue by £4,900,500 due largely to increased receipts from Customs and Excise duties and from miscellaneous, largely non-recurrent revenue.

On the expenditure side, apart from the statutory revenue allocation payments to the Regions and contributions to the Development Fund, the total expenditure incurred was by some £2,400,000 less than the total approved in the Annual Budget and the various Supplementary Appropriation Ordinances enacted during the year. Even after transferring a sum of £3,000,000 to the Development Fund and making payments of £550,000 for the retirement of Special Treasury Bills, the actual surplus achieved during the financial year was £7,075,746.

The figure of £526,114 which represents the additional provision for which Parliament's sanction is now required represents less than £1,400,000 of recurrent expenditure for the year, which compares with a figure of £2,200,000 in the previous financial year. In calculating this figure of £2,200,000 I have, in order to make a fairer comparison, omitted a very large sum, authority for the transfer of which from the Consolidated Revenue Fund to the Development Fund was sought in arrears in the final Finance Bill for 1958-59. This reduction from £2,200,000 to less than £1,400,000 is by no means a perfect result, but it does reflect a considerable improvement over the position in 1958-59 resulting from the closer financial control being practised by this Government in all Ministries and Departments.

If I may turn now briefly to the details of the Heads under which Supplementary Appropriations are now sought, the position is as follows:—

(i) Head 23—Military: There was substantial over-expenditure under many subheads, particularly Personal Emoluments at £169,736 but this was partly offset by savings under other subheads, leaving a net excess expenditure of £140,547;

(ii) Head 25—Police: There was excess expenditure under nine subheads only, of which the only significant one was Personal Emoluments at £113,781. Savings under other subheads reduced the net excess expenditure to £27,181;

(iii) Head 30—Ministry of Education: There was excess expenditure under some sixteen subheads, the only significant one being Federal Government Scholarship Scheme at £208,178. Savings under other subheads reduced the net excess to £41,002;

(iv) Head 37—Pensions and Gratuities : Excess expenditure was incurred under three Non-Statutory subheads, some £216,082 in respect of Non-Statutory Pensions, Annual Allowances, Gratuities, etc. The net excess expenditure was £232,876 ;

(v) Head 39—Ministry of Health : There was excess expenditure under ten subheads, the only significant one being Drugs, Medical Equipment, etc., at £99,193. Savings under other subheads reduced the net excess expenditure to £79,526 ;

(vi) Head 57—Legal : Excess expenditure was incurred under four subheads, the only significant one being the Revision of the Laws of Nigeria at £10,374. Savings under other subheads reduced the net excess expenditure to £4,982.

Finally, Sir, I would like to point out that Government has taken the earliest possible opportunity to present this Bill to the House. It is impossible to be certain of the amounts of unauthorised expenditure during a year until the accounts for the year have been finalised. So far as the 1959-60 accounts are concerned this stage was reached in November 1960. This is the first meeting of the House since then.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of State (Chief H. O. Osagie) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are glad on this side of the House for one thing, that the Minister of Finance has taken the advice of the Opposition that expenditure incurred in previous years should not be delayed for a long time before being brought to this House for approval.

To a large extent, the expenditure incurred in the Supplementary Estimates was properly incurred, but I think that this is an opportunity for this House to appeal to the Minister again that it is high time the Government should reorientate their ideas about expenditure incurred on Heads like Public Works and Commerce and Industry.

Sir, I made a statement to this House to the effect that our Government should begin to think of waging an all out war against economic

imperialism, and I think that the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, and more particularly the Minister of Economic Development should lead this war. Fortunately, the hon. Minister of Finance has the necessary stature, and he could very well be a Generalissimo in the war against economic imperialism.

But the unfortunate impression that is being created now is that the Minister of Finance has constituted himself into a sort agent for the foreign monopolists in this country, because what we are doing now tends to show that we are only trying to reinforce the hands of the monopolists operating in this country.

In Nigeria to-day, Sir, it is common knowledge that most of our people have no capital. The vast majority of our people can be classified as proletariat. If the economy of our country is mainly in the hands of our people, it will not be wrong for the Government to assume the role of the servants of the people. But as long as the economy of this country is in the hands of foreigners, I think the Minister of Finance should try to adopt a policy of socialism.

I say this principally because we find many of the monopolists operating in this country to-day making huge profits, declaring dividend year in year out. As a matter of fact, most of the big companies operating in Nigeria to-day are wealthier than the Federal Government, and that is a sorry state of affairs. We hear of taxation of the common man, taxation of women and taxation of the rich, but I wonder whether we really have a group of people in this country who can be called rich.

Those of us who have had the opportunity to go to countries like the United Kingdom, Western Germany, France and Holland, would know that in Nigeria to-day one could hardly find ten people who can really be called rich. In certain countries in Europe, and quite recently in America, the whole of Lagos could be owned by only two people; the whole of our Nigerian Railway Corporation could be owned by only one man. We have not got that sort of people or financial magnates in this country, and as such, our financial policy should be attuned to a policy that will be beneficial to the generality of our people.

[CHIEF AKIN-OLUGBADE]

As long as we continue to make provisions or laws that will strengthen the hands of those who exploit us, so long shall we be crying and continuing to feel that the independence we have got in this country is not worth-while, that it is a sham. Those of us who fought for independence in this—(Interruptions)

The Minister of Finance : You too ?

Chief Akin-Olugbade : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the nationalists who fought for independence did not fight (Interruptions)—

The Deputy Speaker : Order, order. I do not see the reason for the continued grumbling. The hon. Member has corrected himself, if he erred before.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I say that the nationalists in this country, those of us who fought for independence (Laughter) did not fight merely to wrest power from the administrative officers. The administrative officers in this country came to protect their trade; they came to protect their capital, and that is why they set up a paraphernalia of the Police and the Army and they set out to spend large sums of our money on public works. Now that we seem to have got some sort of independence, the next battle that we should fight is against economic imperialism.

In that respect, Sir, I would urge that the Minister of Finance, when he goes on the proposed economic mission, should take particular note of the work of the Governments in Western Germany, Israel, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, where he underwent some training in 1945-46! It is there that the Minister of Finance will find that the economic policies of those countries are geared to the improvement of the standard of living of the people, not only to enrich those who are already rich. (An hon. Member : Like you) I wish I were rich. But even if I were rich, Mr Deputy Speaker, I know there are many of my relatives who are very poor, and therefore I shall not consider anything I have to be worth anything. Therefore, Sir, we should remind the hon. Minister of Finance that it is not necessarily the fact that one is a millionaire or a near-millionaire—

An hon. Member : Such as the Minister of Finance.

The Minister of Finance : I wish I were one.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : Democratic socialism has started, and no force on earth can stop that trend, and the sooner the Minister of Finance stops the attitude or the policy of trying to become a millionaire so soon will he become a popular Minister. Even in other countries like the United States where you have multi-millionaires, the tax policy in that country to-day, and the various kinds of reliefs which are being provided in order to make living conditions better for the unemployed people, for old people, are also a trend towards democratic socialism. That is why to-day, in spite of the fact that we hear of Communist Parties in the United States and in the United Kingdom, they are as ineffective as in any other country outside the Eastern Bloc.

Unless the Minister of Finance realises the fact that we in this country have not got necessary capital, and that the Government should go all out to encourage industry, that the Government should go all out to spend money on our agriculture, and that the Government should go all out to curb the propensity of the monopolists in our midst, unless that is done we cannot win the battle against economic imperialists.

Certain Governments in the country are adopting economic policies which are in practice in places like Czechoslovakia, Israel and Yugoslavia. That is why a country like Yugoslavia, which, just a few years ago was not as developed as even Lagos or Western Nigeria, is in a position to-day to lend money to new States in Africa.

An hon. Member : Are you a Communist ?

Chief Akin-Olugbade : Mr Speaker, Sir, as far as I know, people in Russia whom we call Communists have always said that even they have not reached the stage of communism; they are now in a socialist state.

We therefore call upon the Minister of Finance to give every encouragement to the Minister of Commerce and Industry, so that our Government can go all out to copy what is being done in the Western Region, in the Eastern Region and in the Northern Region now; to find money, to encourage the establishment of industries. It is no use coming here

to tell us that we do not want to compete with private enterprisers. There are no Nigerian private enterprisers. Most of the people whom we look up to to-day in this country as rich people have enormous over-drafts which they can never pay until they die.

An hon. Member : Where ; how do you know ?

Chief Akin-Olugbade : That is what happens in Nigeria to-day, although the hon. Member may not know it.

I will end my speech by appealing again to the Minister of Finance not to constitute our Government into a group of commissioned agents for foreign monopolists operating in Nigeria.

Mr E. O. Ifezue (Orlu North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I just want to speak on one subject. I do not want to indulge in rigmarole like some Members over there. I wish to speak on the Subject of smuggling. No one else appreciates the danger to our revenue caused by smuggling than the Minister of Finance himself, and I know he will accept some useful suggestions.

Now, before we tackle any problem we have got to find out the cause of that problem, and I think that in order to attack smuggling in this country we have got to go into the root of the problem by finding out the cause. I think that some of the causes are: archaic tariff structures, monopoly in the manufacture and distribution of certain goods, a Government sponsored ban on certain goods entering the country, and then accessibility to our frontiers.

Now, this being the case, I would like to suggest to the Minister to consider a small cut in import duties of goods most commonly smuggled, notably manufactured cigarettes, and especially the "Craven A". A stick of "Craven A" costs 2d in the East and, in Lagos and some parts of the Western Region, it costs 2½d. We must also discourage any form of monopoly in the manufacture and distribution of goods most commonly smuggled. We must strengthen the hands of the law.

Another thing is that we must send some members of our Preventive Service—especially the Waterguards—overseas. We should send them to Spain, to Italy, in order to study the methods of tracking down the smugglers. I mentioned these two countries because smuggl-

ing is practised on a very large scale in those countries and I think Spain has the most efficient methods of catching smugglers.

Now, another suggestion I am going to make is that we must establish and site industries along our frontiers from where these goods are smuggled into Nigeria. This will foster the growth of border towns and perhaps resettle smugglers and their middlemen by providing them with some alternative employment.

Now, Sir, last in these suggestions but by no means the least. We must explore the possibility of opening up legitimate trade with Spain through the Port of Calabar. Let them buy our products. We will be ready to buy their own. I say this because it is surprising to me that Spain encourages smuggling in this country. If we fail to maintain legitimate trade with them then I will ask the Minister of Finance to take up this matter with the United Nations, because I do not see why we should allow Spain to encourage smuggling in this country.

I will not fail to mention also that one of the causes of smuggling is a loophole in certain aspects of international law, as regards the seizure of contraband. On the high seas, I understand, this law regards such seizure as piracy, and once a contraband passes the border it remains the property of the smuggler. I want the Minister to go into this and see what Nigeria can do to remedy this loophole at the international level.

I come to the establishment of frontiers with special reference to our northern frontiers. I think, Sir, that our Northern frontiers are largely unprotected. I therefore call for the establishment of frontier guards to be known as the "Northern Frontier Guard". They should be placed in places like Sokoto, Mubi, Katsina, Daura, Yerwa, and in Nigi, to cover Busa area. It is noticed that articles commonly smuggled from this border include perfumes and tommy hats.

Another thing I would like to point out is in relation to the staff of our Preventive Service. The present policy of recruiting boys who have got the West African School Certificate is not encouraging because most of these boys get bored with the routine of work and resign. I am suggesting that the Minister should consider recruiting boys who have good

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physique and who passed Standard Six to do this work, because these W.A.S.C. holders think that they are too big for the work and, finding the routine of the work too boring, they resign.

We must also base promotion not on the results of competitive examinations but on merit. If you tell an officer in a preventive service that if he catches about fifty smugglers a year he will be promoted, I think he will do his best.

Now another thing is that there is too much compulsory retirement in our Customs Department and I hope that the Minister will see that this thing is stopped. Sir, I beg to support.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : Sir, Supplementary Estimates are not a new thing at all in any Parliament, and that is because the Government will not be in a position always to forecast very accurately what the expenditure of the Government is likely to be within the year. Nevertheless I think it is quite clear that the nearer the Government gets to accuracy the more efficient it is and the further away the Government is from accuracy the more inefficient it certainly is.

We on this Side of the House have quarrelled with the Government on account of Supplementary Estimates, not simply because they bring Supplementary Estimates to the House but because the divergence between their projection and the actual expenditure is always too great, which shows that their inefficiency is a waste to this country.

Now, Mr Deputy Speaker, there are three Supplementary Estimates coming before this House at this Meeting in respect of last year. Three Supplementary Estimates ! Well, we have said it before and I think this is also a confirmation of what I said earlier, that the sooner this Minister removes himself from this office the better. (*Hear, hear.*) Now, Sir, it may be that some Members of this House do not know that they should. . . .

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : On a point of Order, Mr Deputy Speaker, is the hon. Chief Rosiji entitled to come before this House and oppose a Bill covering the period when he was a Minister ? He cannot. (*Interruption*).

The Deputy Speaker : Order, order. While I must admit the point is quite a tricky one, I believe that if Chief Rosiji was a Member of the Council of Ministers he would take equal responsibility with every other Member of the Council of Ministers at the time. (*Interruption.*) Order, order, order. If, in fact, Chief Rosiji was a Member of the Council of Ministers at the relevant time, I suggest that he refrain from making any contrary statements. (*Applause*).

Chief Rosiji : When I spoke earlier, Mr Deputy Speaker, I spoke of the inefficiency of the Government in bringing before this House three Supplementary Estimates and also of the fact that the gap between the Estimates and the actual expenditure is too large. I was also a Minister when I was in the Government and I am here in this House as a duly elected Member and I have every right to say. . . .

Mr Ogunsanya : On a point of Order, Sir, the Chief speaking cannot challenge the ruling of the Chair. He cannot get up and say that since there has been a ruling on the point. . . (*Interruption*).

The Deputy Speaker : May I please you that I will not tolerate any unruliness at all. My ruling was that if Chief Rosiji was a Member of the Council of Ministers the time, he should refrain from making adverse comments on what happened when he was a Member of the Council of Ministers. So far, Chief Rosiji has confined himself to making general statements about Supplementary Estimates and I will certainly step in when he is attacking the particular Estimates.

Chief Rosiji : Some people forget, Mr Deputy Speaker, and they have no cause to forget it. Their conscience is worrying them. (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker : Order. I feel I should ask Chief Rosiji to co-operate by refraining from making rather inflammatory statements.

Chief Rosiji : I was saying, Sir, in spite of all the interruptions, that Members have the right to receive the Draft Estimates as well as the Approved Estimates in this House ; but I do not know how many Members are aware of the fact that what they received last year were only the

Draft Estimates. I did not see any Approved Estimates; but we are entitled to have the Approved Estimates, and it is because of these inefficiencies that Approved Estimates are not provided to Members. This type of thing must stop.

This year we have received the Draft Estimates. I do hope that the Minister will supply us with the Approved Estimates so that we will be in a position to compare what the Approved Estimates are with what they actually expend. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance (The hon. Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to reply very briefly to those points raised by my hon. Friends on the other side. The first was from the hon. Akin-Olugbade who had nothing to say but to repeat himself about monopoly. I always feel that people ought to search their hearts before they make general statements on the Floor of this House. Hon. Members will agree that for some time past, my hon. Friends were singing a different song, that was the song of nationalisation and, later on, they shifted to investment and, obviously, these people who criticize this Act are in fact either in their private day-to-day lives or in the running of a Government by means of a political party, engaged in precisely the same things that they come here to criticize.

The hon. Akin-Olugbade himself is the Chairman of an insurance monopoly in Nigeria. (*Interruption*). Why should he shelter it from nationalization? He should go and sell it to the Action Group Government in the West before he comes here to say anything. Also he is Legal Adviser to about three or four monopolistic companies in Nigeria. He hides under these Companies and comes here to speak of nationalisation.

I want to say, Sir, that my hon. Friends must be careful in making statements that will damage investment possibilities in this country. Monopolies are no more here in Nigeria. Every company that is operating in Nigeria now is trying to tread with the times by giving out shares to Nigerians to buy, by appointing Nigerians as Directors, and by opening the gates of their Companies to everybody to participate. If there is any monopoly, it is run by monopolists in the Western Region.

My hon. Friend, Chief Ayo Rosiji, is one I can rightly classify, because when a Chief is trying to act improperly, he is no more a Chief but a mischief. (*Laughter*). Now, Sir, this mischief is unable to remove the moth in the eyes of his own political party government. It is always the habit of the Opposition, who incidentally are running a Government in this country, to try to educate the Government to do the type of things they preach on the Floor of this House but which on their part they cannot practise.

Sir, during the last year, the West Regional Government submitted three Supplementary Appropriation Bills—

Chief Ayo Rosiji: Point of order, Mr Speaker. We are debating the Federal Government's Estimates not the Regional Government's Estimates, and any debate on a Regional Government's Estimates is irrelevant.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, order. I will certainly endeavour to maintain the balance between relevancy and irrelevancy. I believe that the Minister of Finance was merely starting on a line of argument.

The Minister of Finance: Sir, what I am trying to say is that the presentation of Supplementary Appropriation Bills is not a new thing, nor is it an innovation introduced by this Government. And to support that, I pointed out that a particular Regional Government had submitted three Supplementary Appropriation Bills. One was submitted on the 24th day of September, 1959. Immediately after that, on the 3rd of November, 1959, another Supplementary Appropriation Bill was submitted, and then the third one was on the 7th of March, 1960.

Chief Ayo Rosiji: Point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I wish to stress that the line of argument which the hon. Minister was starting upon is irrelevant. He is debating the Western Region Government's Estimates. We are not concerned with that.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been able to show that even a smaller Government than our own had submitted three Supplementary Appropriation Bills in one year, and then somebody has the audacity to come here and attack us for submitting Supplementary Estimates.

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

My hon. Friend went further to try to criticise some of our measures, and even said that we sanction these things before they come to Parliament. I am referring to the Report of the Auditor of the Western Region of 31st of March, 1959, at page 3. The auditor made the following remarks: "The Appendix shows that certain payments were made without the authority of warrants issued by the Minister of Finance, and also that in certain cases warrants were issued before the enactment of the relative..."

Mr Deputy Speaker : Order, order. Was Chief Olugbade rising on any specific point?

Chief Akin-Olugbade : Yes, Mr Deputy Speaker. The point I would like to raise, Sir, is that most of the points...

The Minister of Finance : I do not yield.

Mr Omisade rose.

The Deputy Speaker : Order, order. Is the hon. Member raising a point of order?

Mr M. A. Omisade (Ife Town) : Standing Order No. 28. The Financial policy of a Regional Government is not the subject of debate in this House at the moment. The House is debating the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 1959-60. I do not know why the Minister of Finance should bring in the financial policy of the West Regional Government. It is absolutely irrelevant.

The Deputy Speaker : Order, order. I think that if hon. Members will be more patient and more restrained we will be able to get on much easier.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I really cannot understand why the Opposition would like to speak about others and would develop cold feet as soon as you want to expose them. (*Prolonged Interruptions*).

An hon. Member : What are you exposing?

The Minister of Finance : The Opposition will soon see. When I expose their political party, they will be clearly known to the members of the public. I am trying to show that they had been cashing money on the Western Region before the Appropriation Law was passed.

Some hon. Members : Shame, shame shame—

The Deputy Speaker : Order, order. I appeal to hon. Members to remember that the hon. Member is addressing the Chair, and hon. Members should kindly endeavour not to be too sensitive. I think they should appreciate that any remark made is made to the Speaker, and if Members feel that it reflects on them they should direct their protest to the Speaker.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Speaker, Sir, my hon. Friend, Chief Ayo Rosiji, also tried to make reference to irregularities in our finances; and again some hon. Gentlemen talked about hon. Members asking for increased pay. I want to say what Action Group Members did in the Western Region. (*Prolonged Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker : Order, order. May I appeal to the Minister of Finance, since he has already established his argument that irregularities alleged here by the Opposition also occur in another Region where their Party is in power, may I appeal to the Minister of Finance not to emphasize that point further.

The Minister of Finance : The fact of it is that there are no irregularities in our finances, but it is essential to establish beyond every shadow of doubt that irregularities do not obtain. I think it is only right that the House should know the place where irregularities obtain. To that end, Sir, I wish to ask your permission to read just a passage of what is in my hand.

An hon. Member : No, we shall not allow that.

The Minister of Finance : The hon. Member who has just interjected is not the Speaker. I must read it.

Some hon. Members : Read it.

Mr Speaker : Order, order. Will hon. Members please be a little more patient.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think a few days ago the Speaker of this House announced that when the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance and the Leader of the Opposition stand to speak, the House should listen in silence. (*Interruptions*).

Several hon. Members : No, no. We did not hear that.

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I think it reflects very adversely on the decorum in the House if we should engage in unnecessary interjections. I will appeal to Members again to resume their sense of decorum and listen to the Minister in silence.

The Minister of Finance : In all cases, advances made to Members of the Legislature ..

An hon. Member : Action Group Members.

The Minister of Finance : For the purpose of motor cars must be applied for that purpose and to be refunded during that year. In two cases, no cars were bought at all. (*Prolonged Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I do hope that Members in this hon. House will appreciate that too much heckling spoils debates and thereby spoils the essence of parliamentary democracy. An hon. Member should have freedom to speak without interruption and if there is any breach of order, the Speaker is there to call the hon. Member to order. Unless it is absolutely necessary that he should bring a point of order, I do not think it is good every minute that a Member should call a point of order. I think we should get rid of that and make progress.

The Minister of Finance : What I was saying is this, Sir, in two cases no cars were purchased at all and in the others, the full amounts were not used to purchase a car. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Members must refrain from interruptions.

The Minister of Finance : So, Sir, you will find that in this place hon. Members are gentlemen and men of integrity and whatever monies are applied for should be used for the purpose for which those monies were needed and so, therefore, Sir, I would say, Sir, that the Supplementary Appropriation Bill is, as I said, made to cover the expenditure with the authority of the Legislature and that the items which we are seeking to cover with the sanction of the Legislature have been clearly mentioned by me in my speech. The Police, the Military, the Legal Department : these are clear things which anyone could forecast and naturally, Sir, it is our duty to

come to this House and we have come early enough to get the sanction of this House. I would ask this hon. House to pass the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Mr Chairman : Order, order. Under the Standing Orders of this House, Clauses 1 and 2 stand postponed until after the consideration of the Schedule.

HEAD 36—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question proposed, That £3,257,570 for Head 36—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr E. O. Ifezue (Orlu North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in proposing this amendment, I just want to speak on what I consider is wrong in our Scholarship policy. Our Scholarship policy is not, to my mind, comprehensive and it is not planned to suit the man-power needs of this country. Sir, every year, we are told that emphasis will be laid on science, but in actual fact, you find that most Scholarships go to Arts. Now, in one year alone, there were as many as 21 Scholarships for B.A. Hons. in History and there were only two Scholarships for B.A. Hons. in Mathematics. I feel, Sir, that too much emphasis has been laid on Arts. We often complain that we have no doctors, no engineers, no veterinary surgeons, and so forth. If we go to our Veterinary Department, we find that nearly all the surgeons there are expatriates. We find that in this country at the moment, there is one doctor for over 60,000 people.

So I am appealing that our Scholarships should be planned to encourage students to study science subjects like Medicine, Veterinary Surgery, Engineering, Mathematics, and so forth. Now, another aspect of this Scholarship policy which I consider is not good is what amounts to a ban on studies overseas. Scholarship recipients whose subjects are not tenable in West African Universities are often per-

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sued to take courses of study in West African Universities. (*Interruptions*). I feel I should be heard in this House. Now, in some cases, Sir, Scholarships lapse because students cannot gain admission in West African Universities. Still yet, Sir, we send our Civil Servants overseas for in-service training which actually amounts to an expensive recreation. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Chairman : I do not like Members of the Front Bench, both Government and Opposition, having private conversations.

Mr Ifezue : It also gives the impression that civil servants are a privileged class, in other words, those who go to study overseas. I want the Minister to overhaul this policy at once.

Another point is the delay in executing scholarship awards. Those awarded scholarships in 1960 are not sure of being absorbed into the Universities in the next two years. I want the Minister to strengthen the staff of the Scholarships' Section of his ministry by employing more hands. The argument against sending our students to study overseas is that it costs more to maintain students overseas but if we decide to give every scholarship holder £250 a year, why not give it to the overseas scholar and ask his people to find the rest. I think it is a very good suggestion.

Another point, Sir, is the case of private students. Some of these private students fail to gain Federal scholarships not because they have not got the brains but because they have no luck and some of them find Universities to study in overseas. I think that these students should be helped, at least give them £50 a year in order to encourage them.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa) : Mr Chairman, Sir, the Federal Government Scholarships Scheme has always got the estimates reduced every year and in effect, we have come here to approve an estimate that has been spent years gone by. If the Government will have a little more foresight, we shall be blessed in this country. I feel scholarships should be given to journalists to come back to run magazines like the "Nigerian Teacher". The "Nigerian Teacher" claims about £3,000 every year and these magazines are never seen

in schools, especially in teacher training schools. I happen to belong to a teacher training college and I have never seen that magazine for a whole year. If that magazine will reach the standard expected of it, scholarship should be given at least to a deserving man to go and study and come back to manage that particular magazine.

Not that alone. Scholarships should be given to people to go and train in commercial subjects and such people should come back to work in commercial schools that should be started by Government. The Minister of Education has just told us that there are only two commercial schools in the whole of Lagos area. That is opposed to what is happening in the Western Region where commercial schools are being opened in nearly every Division. (*Interruption*).

The Chairman : I maintain that I shall not allow interruptions from Ministerial benches.

Mr Gbolagunte : Thank you, Mr Chairman. Scholarships should be given, as I was saying, to people to go and study and to come back to teach in commercial schools and such commercial schools should be established in greater numbers. Scholarships also should be given to more boys to study in the Universities. If you look into our Estimates year in year out, you find that there is a reduced amount in that section of the Estimates every year. Does it mean that the Government is no more going to give scholarships? If we must put the recommendations of the Ashby Commission into practice, we must intensify the giving of scholarships.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very much in sympathy with the points made by my two hon. Friends and I will recommend to the Minister of Education that my hon. Friend on that side be given a scholarship to make short speeches in Parliament and for my other honourable gentleman, to become the editor of the "Nigerian Teacher".

Question, That £41,002 for Head 30—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 37—PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES

£232,876 for Head 37—Pensions and Gratuities—agreed to.

HEAD 39—MINISTRY OF HEALTH

£79,526 for Head 39—Ministry of Health—agreed to.

HEAD 57—LEGAL

£4,982 for Head 57—Legal—agreed to.

Question, That the Schedule be the schedule to the Bill put and agreed to.

Postponed clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Preamble to the Bill agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported without amendment, read the third time and passed.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1960-61)
BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have it in command from His Excellency to move that a Bill entitled "An Act to make Supplementary Provision for the Services of the Federation of Nigeria for the year ending on the Thirty-First day of March, One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixty-One, additionally to that made by the Appropriation (1960-61) Ordinance, 1960, the Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61) Ordinance, 1960, and the Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61) Act, 1960, be now read a second time.

This, Sir, is a Bill in which we seek Parliament's covering approval for urgent and inescapable supplementary expenditure. I would, however, like to make it clear that this Bill is in a different category from the Bill in respect of the financial year 1959-60, which has also been presented to Parliament at this Meeting. The 1959-60 Bill covers excess expenditure which was brought to light when the accounts of the Federation for that year

were closed. The present Bill, with one exception, will cover expenditure which has been specifically authorised by me in accordance with the provisions of the Finance (Control and Management) Ordinance, or expenditure on essential services which the responsible officers have reported since Parliament last met would have to be curtailed unless a further appropriation could be approved. In all cases the curtailment of this expenditure would have been contrary to the public interest. Ideally, of course, I would have hoped to secure Parliament's approval in advance, but in present circumstances occasions must inevitably arise when expenditure has to be authorised when Parliament is not sitting.

I said that there is one exception to the two categories of expenditure I have mentioned. This is the vote for bicycle advances under Sub-head 63 of Head 35. The reason for this vote is very fully explained in the footnote to the Head in the Draft Supplementary Estimates. As hon. Members will see, this vote is a mere tidying up operation, a transfer from one Public Fund to another not involving any additional disbursement. The Government does not in any way regard this as a matter of principle or of confidence, but we do think it will simplify our accounting procedures and, indeed, produce some economies in staff and other directions. On these grounds, therefore, I have no hesitation in commending this particular item to the House.

The details of the Supplementary Estimates themselves are both brief and plain and there is little I need say about them. I will say this however :—Regarding Head 24—Police—we all know the excellent work which the Nigeria Police did during the Western Region Election, the Independence Celebrations and the regrettable happenings in the Benue Province. It was inevitable that these events should require additional expenditure and, by its very nature, it was both urgent and inescapable.

Regarding Head 25—Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations—we have already heard much in this House on the need for Nigeria to strengthen and extend her representation abroad on a scale befitting the greatness of our nation. Additional expenditure under this Head has enabled us to give effect to this policy.

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

Regarding Head 35, comparatively large sums are required for services which, in the interests of accounting convenience, are administered by the Ministry of Finance on behalf of all Ministries and Departments. The reason for the additional amount required for passages is partly a large increase in the number of persons travelling overseas on official duties since independence and partly the result of some delay in the introduction of tourist class air travel for civil servants, resulting from the need for prior consultation with the staff associations.

This vote and the vote for Children's Separate Domicile allowances is, of course, as hon. Members will appreciate, not susceptible to close and direct control by the Accounting Officer, since the vast majority of the disbursements arise from the approved conditions of service for members of the Public Service. The extra charges in internal postal, telegraph and telephone services reflect the growing scale of public business and will, of course, be balanced by an exactly equal additional amount under the Posts and Telegraphs Revenue Head.

Finally, Sir, hon. Members will note from the Financial Statement on page 2 of the Supplementary Estimates that even after allowing for this third supplementary appropriation of nearly £1,600,000 we can still look forward to making a contribution of some seventeen million pounds to the Development Fund from our 1960-61 Recurrent Budget. In other words, Sir, these Supplementary Estimates do not in any way affect the figures which I laid before the House in my Budget Speech. The highly satisfactory contribution from the 1960-61 Revenue Budget to the Capital Budget for development stays quite unchanged. As I said in my Budget Speech, this is an outcome of the financial year which gives me and my colleagues great pride, reflecting, as it does, the strength of the finances of the Federal Government.

So much, Sir, for the provisions of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill itself. But, with your forbearance, it is customary on these occasions for me in introducing such a Bill to mention the Supplementary Capital Expenditure Estimates as well, although they do not

form part of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, but are appropriated by Resolutions, which I shall present separately.

The Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure total some £4½ million in all, of which the greater part, a sum of nearly £3,500,000 is for on-lending to Regional Governments and is not properly a part of the strictly Federal Budget at all. The figure of some £8 million shown in the Annual Estimates for this purpose, related only to the allocation to the Regions of their shares of the proceeds of internal borrowing this year. At that time, it was thought that the Exchequer Loan from the United Kingdom Government would be paid direct to the Regions, but, in the event, the loan was paid to the Federal Government for on-lending to the North (£2 million), and the East (£1 million).

In addition, because of their cash needs, it is intended that the North and East should receive a slightly higher proportion of the proceeds of the Second Development Loan of £10 million, although they will be eligible for that much less in 1961-62.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have no hesitation in recommending to the House that it considers favourably the Third Supplementary Appropriation Bill for 1960-61. As I have explained, it represents no departure from the policies set out in my Budget Speech. The expenditure involved is of a nature which I am satisfied, after most searching scrutiny, could not in any circumstances have been avoided.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move. //

The Minister of Mines and Power
(Hon. Maitama Sule) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 9 p.m.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in the Committee.

(In the Committee)

HEAD 23.—CABINET OFFICE
£26,200 for Head 23—Cabinet Office—agreed to.

HEAD 24.—POLICE

£142,470 for Head 24—Police—agreed to.

HEAD 25.—FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

£107,750 for Head 25—Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations—agreed to.

HEAD 27.—DEFENCE

£85,000 for Head 27—Defence—agreed to.

HEAD 35.—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

£640,630 for Head 35—Finance—agreed to.

HEAD 50.—VETERINARY (RESEARCH)

£1,500 for Head 50—Veterinary (Research)—agreed to.

HEAD 61.—PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

£6,000 for Head 61.—Public Service Commission—agreed to.

HEAD 24.—POLICE

£5,000 for Head 24—Police—agreed to.

HEAD 25.—FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

£2,000 for Head 25—Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations—agreed to.

HEAD 27.—MILITARY

£10,000 for Head 27—Military—agreed to.

HEAD 29.—PENSIONS

£475,000 for Head 29—Pensions—agreed to.

HEAD 38.—HEALTH

£50,000 for Head 38—Health—agreed to.

HEAD 44.—INFORMATION

Question proposed that £9,550 for Head 44—Information—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) Mr Chairman, Sir, sometime last year the Federal Government entered into a military pact with the British Government and there was a hue and cry all over the country, which was dying down until the Minister for Commonwealth Relations in the British Government came out to this country. He is now in

the country—in Nigeria—and as one would expect he expressed his opinion on the Military Pact.

But to the greatest surprise of many of us, the Minister of Information went on the air this evening and told the nation that because Mr Duncan Sandys said that there were no strings attached to the Military Pact, therefore the reputation of the hon. Prime Minister was cleared and that it was an unchallengeable—in fact he used a jaw-breaking expression, that it was an unchallengeable certificate of clearance for the Prime Minister.

Well, I do not know for whom the Minister of Information intended that jibe, but it is certainly not for the right thinking Nigerians who could ask the question: *why?*, and who know that the British Minister who is now in this country is a party to that pact. The country did not object simply because there were no strings attached; the country objected to the military pact because of the terms, the provisions of the military pact, not because of strings. Nobody quarrelled about strings but everybody in this country knows the implications.

Whether strings are attached or not to any military pact, the fact that there is a military pact suggests that there are certain obligations, certain duties, which must be performed by the parties to that pact, and I think that the Minister of Information should not constitute himself into a megaphone for the British Government. He is accountable to the Federal Government, and it is his duty to pass out information that people in this country will acclaim, not necessarily to defend the indefensible.

Sir, I support.

The Minister of Information (Hon. T. O. S. Benson): Sometimes, Sir, when the Minister of Finance attacks lawyers in this House, it is lawyers like my hon. Friend, Akin-Olugbade, who are responsible for such attacks. Here is a man who can read, and write, he is a lawyer by profession, he can read the pact. I say again, Sir, that there is nothing in the pact.

An hon. Member: There is something in it.

The Minister of Information : What does the hon. Member know? Is he a lawyer? As I was saying, Sir, there is nothing in the pact, these people only play politics with it every time by trying to impute improper motives. It is my duty as the Minister of information to project the country and to explain Government's actions to the people, as it seems that the Members of the Opposition are trying to mislead them.

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West) : I object to that statement, Sir,

The Minister of Information : I know, Sir, that the hon. Member was at one time working in my Ministry, the N.B.C.

Mr Brown : I am very happy that the Minister of Information recognises that I was one of the founders of the Broadcasting Corporation (*Hear, hear*).

An hon. Member : Where was he then?

Mr Brown : He was then running about Ikorodu town organising the N.C.N.C. Vanguard. In that particular year when these Supplementary Estimates were being passed in this House, I remember that I travelled to a place called Cotonou, just a few miles from here. I discovered, Sir, it was impossible at Cotonou for anybody to tune his radio to Nigeria. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order, order! Mr Brown.

Mr Brown : As I said, Sir, nobody could tune to listen to Nigeria at the particular time when we were called upon to approve a very heavy amount. I do not remember what the amount was, that was then being voted for the Broadcasting system. I would, therefore, suggest that the Minister of Information should go to the far North or the Eastern Region or to Cotonou, tune his radio from any of these places, and see if he can get the rest of the country, rather than run about the United States, Russia, and other places, and then come back to give us false reports.

He also said at one time that he was going to bring good materials to come and develop the broadcasting system in this country. I want the Minister of Information to do something towards improving radio broadcasting system in this country. I remember, Sir,

when a Minister from the Southern Cameroons came here, he told us that he was going to America to import new equipment to improve our broadcasting system and a report was submitted to this House for approval. Up to the present time, no improvement has been made.

About the signing of the pact, Sir, the Minister of Information has been laying emphasis on the fact that this country is not in danger. My concern is that if any pact was to be signed at all, it was not during the time of our independence that that pact ought to have been signed. At least, six months ought to have elapsed after independence. We have to give ourselves time to consider and reconsider all the circumstances surrounding the pact. But what happened? When we were only a few days to independence over which everybody was anxious, we were called upon to sign a pact with Britain! I maintain that the people of this country will still remain in fear, so far as the signing of that pact is concerned, and no amount of broadcasting by the Minister of Information will allay our fears until the pact is abrogated.

The Minister should tell the nation why the signing of the pact was timed to coincide with our independence.

The Minister of Information (Hon. T. O. S. Benson) : I am happy, Sir, that the hon. Gentleman is from some part of Nigeria alleged to be known as the C.O.R. area.

Several hon. Members : There is no C.O.R. area.

The Chairman : Order, order!

The Minister of Information : From Calabar area. If the pact is not signed between Nigeria and Britain, when Mr Foncha attacks that area, there will be no soldiers to defend them.

As to the second part of the hon. Gentleman's speech, we have just concluded an agreement to purchase 100 kilowatt short wave transmitter for the N.B.C. so that we can easily hear news from the N.B.C. transmitters anywhere in Nigeria and the adjoining countries, even at Cotonou, where Mr Brown was talking about.

Mr G. O. D. Emeh (Abaja and Ngwo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, this is a very good opportunity to place on record our appreciation of the good services of the Minister of Information

(Hear, hear) as well as of the Members of his Ministry for their very excellent work in enhancing the prestige of this nation. However, we want the Minister to do everything in his power to see that external broadcasting is established forthwith.

Question put and agreed to.

£9,550, for Head 44—Ministry of Information—agreed to.

Second Schedule agreed to.

Postponed Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported without amendment, read the third time and passed.

HEAD 601—LOANS

The Minister of Finance (Chief the F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the expenditure from the Development Fund of Ten Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Third Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1960-61, under Head 601—Loans, be approved.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): Sir I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I just like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the officials of the Ministry of Lagos Affairs for the good arrangements they made when fire broke out in Lagos. (*Hear, hear*).

I will make myself clear. All that the officials did was to arrange some form of social assistance for the people. The Government provided permanent houses for the victims at Surulere. (*Interruptions*). I am making the position clear. The officials of Ministry arranged for people to subscribe money, bring clothes and there was satisfactory response from the members of the Lagos community. The Government is now doing something towards the relief of the hardship of this people.

Mr Ogunsanya rose on point of information—

Mr Dosunmu: Mr Chairman, I am not yielding. As I was saying I also thank the Federal Government for providing permanent houses at Surulere for the victims. That goes to some extent to relieve the hardship, but the only thing I want to add is that, I do not know under what conditions these people were transferred to Surulere. Will they be regarded as paying tenants? I am asking the Federal Government to treat them more generously than those who were housed at Surulere as a result of the slum clearance because these people were victims of an act of God.

It was a fire and the extent of the damage or loss caused to the people concerned is better imagined than described. As I said, I hope that the Government will be more generous with them than those who were housed in Surulere as a result of the slum clearance scheme.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want formally to join the hon. Dosunmu in thanking those who provided help for the people who were displaced by fire—the Federal Government, the Ministry of Lagos Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, the Prime Minister himself—all of them made it possible for the people to be helped. They came promptly to the rescue.

Hon. Dosunmu should be ashamed of himself that in his own constituency—Central Lagos—and up till now he does not know under what conditions those people went to Surulere. He said here just now—"I do not know under what conditions these people are being housed—"

Several hon. Members: Shame, shame.

Mr Ogunsanya: Hon. Dosunmu spends half his time going round Nylon Sellers in Central Lagos instead of looking after his constituency. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order, that is getting away from the Capital Expenditure.

Mr Ogunsanya: I would like to record my respect and appreciation to the Federal Government for getting to the scene within two hours after the fire, the Lagos Town Council, the Lagos Executive Development Board, members of the L.E.D.B., members of the L.T.C., and the Ministers who were at the spot. I am sure, now that the people of Central

[MR OGUNSANYA]
Lagos know the party they should vote for in the next elections. They know it. Those who throw stones and live in glass houses will have their houses smashed to pieces.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, as a matter of fact, we appreciate the fact that hon. Dosunmu and hon. Ogunsanya, the strange bed-fellows of the fire brigade are interested in this fire matter and, we are happy that hon. Dosunmu has raised this matter to show how very constant this Government is in coming to the aid of anybody that is in difficulty. (*Hear, hear*) (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : I do not know why there should be so much interruption on my left in particular.

The Minister of Finance : I am sure Sir, that hon. Members will also want us to thank those who are responsible for fire fighting in Lagos—the fire fighting squad in Lagos. It is a fact that whenever we have these difficulties they always carry out their duty most gracefully. We sympathise with those who were the victims of this unfortunate incident. Mr Chairman, Sir, Mr Dosunmu is a moderate politician and we thank him sincerely for making mention of this matter.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Ten Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Third Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1960-61, under Head 601—Loans, be approved.

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the expenditure from the Development Fund of forty-two thousand, five hundred pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Third Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1960-61, under Head 602—Highways and Bridges—be approved.

The Minister of Establishments (The hon. Mallam Shehu Shagari) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, although the money has been fully spent, I would not like to know the purpose for which it was spent, but I would like to say this much. It was in this House, at the period this amount was spent, that the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Works

and Surveys told us that he was going to use the money voted for that year to expand—rebuild, if possible—the Uya-Oron Bridge.

I am happy to report that the Prime Minister of this country, our most respected Prime Minister of this country (*Hear, hear*), we respect him—

An hon. Member : Oh ! Yes, why would you not respect him ? He is the Prime Minister of Nigeria.

Mr Ekanem : I am happy to report that our most respected Prime Minister has been passing through that bridge and somebody who passes through that bridge will see that it is worth some attention of the Federal Government, and I would like to know how much of the money was spent on it. Not a brass farthing of it was used to either repair or expand that bridge.

I would like to say that it is within the prerogative of the Government to meet any emergency which may need finance, but it has not been shown clearly that the more we meet in this Parliament to approve of any expenditure the better. And I accused the Minister of Finance some time in January that he lacked foresight. I will be mild this time.

We are now treating the Estimates for 1961-62 and each Ministry knows full well the work it has in hand. It should be the place of that Ministry to estimate, as much as it would need for the approval of Parliament. You see, it always leaves us in doubt. That does not mean to say that we are in doubt of the integrity and character of the person of any Minister. A person like him, I do not doubt, but when money is dished out in this form the whole thing borders on suspicion that this money might have been spent—

An hon. Member : Elsewhere.

Mr Ekanem : No, not elsewhere in the sense that you might take it.

An hon. Member : But in the way you take it.

Mr Ekanem : But that it might have been spent on those things which are unnecessary. I do not think that we on this side of the House will be prepared to appropriate any Supplementary Estimate without better explanation.

Mr M. B. Afanideh (Ikot-Ekpene South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would ask the Minister of Works and Surveys to try and travel to the

country so that he might be able to know those bridges that are good and those that are not good. If you travel to Abak Road you will find that the bridge between Abak and Ikot Ekpene is a narrow bridge, so that I would urge the Government to try as much as possible to extend that bridge because if you go there you will see that very many lorries fall into the river. I, therefore, hope the Government will try to do all it could to see that that bridge is kept under constant repairs.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to sound a note of alarm which must be picked up by the Government immediately, for the simple reason that it may not be easy for us from the East to go back to Onitsha on the 20th when this House rises, because there was a bridge, just immediately before Akure from Onitsha, which has been under construction for the past eight months, and now the condition is so alarming that no cars can pass through there now, and I understand from reliable reports that six lorries and many cars are in that bridge right now and no cars can pass through there.

They detour into the Yoruba area and in that detour it becomes increasingly impossible for two cars to pass each other. If they meet on that detour road one has to go back up to a mile before they cross, and it is really a very, very dangerous situation which calls for an urgent Public Works Department team to be sent there immediately to see what can be done within the next day or so.

Several hon. Members : Within two days.

Mr A. E. Efiang-Spatts (Calabar) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am just going to sound a note of warning to the Government, and that is, that highways and bridges must be something very, very substantial to Nigeria. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order, order. With all this noise it is impossible for anybody to hear what the hon. Member is saying.

Mr Efiang-Spatts : Throughout the whole of the Trunk Roads leading to Calabar and the Oban-Mamfe, you have got bridges there—very narrow ones. As a matter of fact, just before Ikot-Nakanda, there is a bridge which nobody can cross. For the past one year the

bridge has been bad, and, as a matter of fact, if you go over to Oron, just by the Uya-Oron, you will find that that bridge has been there for twenty years without improvement. I am just asking the Government—I know the Government is generous and is prepared to do these things—to look into these bridges. I know definitely well that Government is prepared to take up this work, and while I pour encomiums on the Government for trying to improve our roads and bridges, I still put this to the Government, that care should be taken to expand our bridges and that the Calabar-Mamfe road should be tarred.

Last time the Prime Minister went there. As a matter of fact, we had all amount of dust rising up. It was something like somebody running into hell, because it was too cloudy, and that if it happens like that at any time, I do not think it will be good enough.

As a matter of fact, that road leads to Calabar and it is only 307 miles from Katsina-Allah and if that road should be opened straight away to Ikom and from Ikom to Katsina-Allah, you will find at least that you have got a straight road to Calabar—only 307 miles from Katsina-Allah—and that will even bring up an improvement to Calabar port.

I would ask the Government to see that those bridges are well maintained and the roads expanded.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I appreciate that we are now discussing money that has already been spent. I think it is within my prerogative to bring this to the House : I have mentioned it before.

We should distribute our development programme on the basis of need and, in this connection, I am referring to the bridge between Abonema and Degema. That bridge is long overdue and during colonial days one commissioner after another had promised that the bridge would be built and that it would shortly bring the whole of the Rivers Province into the orbit of trade with Port-Harcourt. It would bring Port-Harcourt nearer to the Rivers Province and also that road would lead to Port Harcourt, straight to Degema but nothing has been done.

The 22-mile road between Degema and Port Harcourt—will be a great boom to the people of the Rivers, and also it will bring

[MR BRIGGS]

Oguta—I think Mr Okafor will support me—which is the traditional oil market of the Kalabari people nearer to Rivers people. I think it will bring prosperity all round and also we shall have no more difficulty in travelling to Port Harcourt.

Mr A. Opiah (Aboh) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to draw the attention of Government to a very dangerous bridge which is at Agbanikaka where Government is trying to do something now. This bridge it is so fearful when people have to pass there in their cars or lorries that I think Government has started to do some little work there.

But there is a diversion which Government has provided now. We understand that the diversion is already flooded up and one cannot even use it. You have to do a diversion of about one hundred miles extra before you can get to the main road again and this means a great deal. I do not know if the Government have sufficient money to pay for the cost of a diversion of hundred miles long. The Government knows what it costs to build a mile of road or to run a vehicle for a mile. I feel that the Ministry of Works should begin now to do something urgently to alleviate the suffering and perhaps to save the expenditure. After all if people have to do a detour of about one hundred miles extra to get to the main road it certainly means that in order to reach one's destination one must spend much more than one had bargained for. In view of that I would suggest that Government should think of doing something immediately so that we can pass through, and this should be done now, now.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I also thank the Government for the work going on in the Shagamu-Ijebu-Ode-Benin road. Well, it is very good work going on there but I feel, Sir, that Government should do something to expedite the work and make it possible that when next Members are coming here we will be able to make use of that road. It will certainly save over one hundred miles, as we have been told, and we look forward to the time when this road will be put into use.

In addition to this, Sir, I have one bridge in my constituency in mind. There is no bridge there at the moment but I feel that it is going to shorten—(Interruption).

An hon. Member : It is a regional subject.

Mr Opiah : It is regional, Mr Chairman, but unfortunately I come from a place where the Action Group does not take interest in doing that job.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to express publicly the thanks which I addressed to the Minister of Works for widening the road between Agege and Abeokuta. I would like to say it here publicly. But I feel that this is the opportunity to call on the Minister of Works and Surveys to consider expediting action on the widening of the road which passes through Abeokuta township.

Many people who use that road know that it is every day becoming a veritable death-trap. Efforts have been made in the past to get the Minister of Works to undertake the widening of the road but I was made to understand that the reason why work has been suspended on the job is that the Federal Government does not want to pay compensation to owners of the properties on both sides of the road. But Abeokuta is not a peculiar case.

There are other towns where Trunk A roads, like the one which passes through Abeokuta, run and the Government did not hesitate to widen the roads and pay compensation to people whose property had to be demolished. It is happening even in Lagos to-day, and at Ibadan it is still happening. I would call upon the Minister of Works to accelerate or expedite action on the job at Abeokuta and not to forget the contribution that this historic city has made to this great nation.

Mr D. O. Enefolá (Igala South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, while hon. Members from the southern part of this country complain about the roads, I think I will seize this opportunity to complain about roads in the Northern Region. I will not waste the time of the House but I would like to mention a particular road on which I travelled about two weeks ago up to Jos, and that is the road between Aleide and Markurdi and between Makurdi

and Lafia. This road is actually very bad, and in these small cars, if we travel on the road, by the time you get to Makurdi you lose all the nuts and bolts and you must pay a lot of money to service your car by the time you get to Jos.

The road actually is too bad and calls for improvement. After all, the importance of road transport in this country, especially in the Northern Region cannot be over-emphasised. I think the Government is aware of the fact that the Northern Region is a very big Region and requires double attention.

In particular, Mr Chairman, I would like to mention my own constituency that has returned seven Members to this place. The only Federal roads between Cistaco and Ankpa have not brought even an inch of improvement. There is not even an inch of coal tar on the road. So I would like the Minister to take note of these observations.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I would like to tell hon. Members that much as the Chairman is lenient with us, because we have not so much work to-night, Members should know that a lot of what we have been hearing here to-night is absolutely irrelevant to the Head under discussion. We are not discussing the Head of the Ministry of Works and Surveys in the present budget, we are discussing those few items there. So hon. Members will do well if they desist from speaking generally on this Head of the Estimates.

The Chairman: I think I had better put the question now.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Forty-Two Thousand, Five Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Third Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1960-61, under Head 602—Highways and Bridges, be approved.

ESTIMATES OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE,
1960-61

HEAD 605—OTHER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move, That the expenditure from the

Development Fund of Four Million, One Hundred and Seventy-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Third Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1960-61, under Head 605—Other Capital Expenditure, be approved.

Question proposed.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have a number of points to make under this Head. First, I have to congratulate the Government for the efforts which it made in getting the Independence Celebrations to be successful. Well, a sum of money has been asked for in order to pay for the money which has already been spent. I think that we still have some assets which will help us to clear the arrears of money. I think that there are still some independence cars which have not been sold. I hope that when they are sold the money realised will be used to cover part of the arrears.

I have to congratulate the Government for providing money for the Regional Governments for development purposes under loans to Regional Governments because I believe that without the support and guarantee of the Federal Government the Regional Governments would find it difficult to get loans or assistance from abroad. I hope that our Government will continue to support these Regional Governments in their demand for money for economic development.

With regard to the setting up of external broadcasting system the Government should be congratulated for heeding to the expressed opinion of the general public in this country and particularly to the opinion of the Members in this House. I remember that many speakers pointed out the necessity of having effective broadcasting which can be heard all over Africa and, in fact, all over the world and the Government has risen to the occasion. I have to say that it has not yet set up the system but the intention to do so ought to be praised. It means that the Government listens to opinions expressed in this House.

But may I make a point further that when this new external broadcasting system is established provision should also be made in order to make it possible for the voice of the Federal Government to be heard throughout the Federation. I would like to say that the Government should not allow the Regional

[MR OGBALU]
Governments to have their broadcasting Service drowning that of the Federal Government. An example is the Western Regional Broadcasting Service which is certainly overshadowing the Federal Government Broadcasting System. But in my own opinion, I think the Federal Government, in events like this, should take precedence over the Regional Governments. Again we have got regional television services both in the Eastern and Western Regions and possibly in the Northern Region and the Federal Government is embarking upon a television system. I am appealing to the Federal Government that there should be a co-ordination of these television services. It is unfortunate that different television services should be established all over the Federation. I think that a unified network of television system in this country is a *desideratum*.

Another point which I want to make is about the fact that a printing press is going to be established by the Federal Government. Here again, the Government is to be congratulated for the Information Service shows that it is really standing on its own feet. It has the intention to project Nigeria to the outside world. The other important countries of the world, countries like the United States, have got Government national newspapers which disseminate news, give the correct views of the Government and popularise Government's projects and proposals. In this country, up to the present time we have not got such a machinery for the Federal Government to make its influence felt both in the Federation and in the outside world. Here, I must say, is the answer to the problem—the establishment of a national press. I think the personnel must be looked into to make sure that it is only the people who will support the Federal Government that are appointed to hold key posts in that Department. I am appealing to the Government that if there is any mistake whatsoever it can be corrected so that the department can project the personality of the Federal Government and make its influence felt. It should also project Government's policies correctly and without bias and maintain the unity of the Federation completely. That will be the best thing for the Federal Government.

Well, I am not generally interested in making long speeches, so, Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr P. O. Akpan (Uyo South East): Sir, with regard to the external broadcasting system, I rise to associate my views with those of the last speaker in that to many countries of the world Nigeria is still a question mark, a very big question mark for that matter, because the machinery for broadcasting to the outside world is not available at the moment. So, people outside know little or nothing about Nigeria. Those who have gone overseas will agree with me that it is not uncommon for some students to ask their fellow students where Nigeria really is and in what section of the globe it is. That is because we have not had a means of telling the outside world where Nigeria is.

I have to congratulate the Federal Government for its intention to establish this external broadcasting service and also for the establishment of the Federal television service. All along it has been the regions that have been leading in this project. It is gratifying to learn from the Prime Minister at the Press Conference that the Federal Government was planning to start a Federal television service. But we have to take note of the fact that the Western Regional Government Television Service is doing more than any of the Regions and the Federal Government should try to emulate this good example.

Now, about the Independence Celebrations, I have found that some money here has already been spent. But then we have to be very realistic towards the government. In fact, it was a sort of accidental development of Lagos. Certain parts which otherwise could not have been developed were given a sort of fine touching.

Although we say that Lagos is very well developed there are certain parts which cannot give us any credit at all; certain streets in Lagos are very bad. I know that there are certain paths along which the visitors passed which were very good and could interest them. I have also to thank the government for what it did to develop the Victoria Island and make it habitable. It was a place which about two years ago was considered very bad and unsuitable for human habitation. To-day it is most surprising that such a place could be improved

so well. But, Mr Chairman, although there are very beautiful buildings on the Island, they are beautiful only from outside, inside them are mere pigeon holes.

The Minister of Finance : Is this place a pigeon hole ?

Mr Akpan : No, I do not mean this place, but the buildings on Victoria Island. I cannot understand myself coming to live again in the dormitory after having left that sort of life for years.

Sir, is it true that the Managing Director of the National Press which is just to be established is to be paid £5,000 per annum ; the Editorial Director to be paid £3,500 per annum ? If it is true, these scales of salaries are definitely scandalous and should be reduced. Other Directors are paid £2,500. What for ?

An hon. Member : Which Directors ?

Mr Akpan : I do not know ; you have several of them here. The Directors of the National Newspaper to receive £2,500 and yet we have been talking of sacrifice to enable us build up the economy of the country. If there is any thing that calls for sacrifice it is this. We do not even know when this proposition is starting. Why do we not start paying this fabulous salary to workers ? In any case I hope the Government will reconsider this matter and pay something less to the people. Why should the Managing Director be paid £5,000 just like the Prime Minister ? Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few remarks I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, my hon. Friend who has just spoken obviously was making a very good speech until some devil gave him a piece of paper. (*Interruptions*).

Sir, speaking quite seriously I want to tell my hon. Friend that he had been misinformed. The Chairman and Managing Director of the new printing corporation is not paid £5,000.

An hon. Member : No.

The Minister of Finance : It is enough for you to accept my statement that the man is not paid £5,000 per annum. He is paid much less than that. I am sure that my reasonable Friends on that Side will accept if I make a statement before the House as a responsible Minister that the man is not paid £5,000 per annum.

Several hon. Members : What is he paid ?

The Minister of Finance : I hope hon. Members know quite well that this is not Question time, and if you want to know (*Interruptions*)..... Would you allow me to talk ?

The Chairman : Order, order ! The Minister of Finance.

The Minister of Finance : Quite frankly, Sir, if my hon. Friend Mr Briggs will be serious he will hear some words of wisdom. Sir, I said that the man is not paid £5,000. Even if he were paid £5,000 per annum he merits it. He is the Chairman of the printing corporation. I repeat once again, Sir, that he is not paid £5,000. Afterwards the Managing Director of the "Daily Express" owned by an absentee capitalist from Canada earns more than that. Are you on that Side not ashamed ?

The Chairman : I do not want to mention names but hon. Members trying to make the debate a conversation should please stop doing so.

The Minister of Finance : What I want to say, Sir, is that even newspapers that are not controlled by any government at all are paying their Managing Directors as much as £5,000 per annum in this country. The Managing Director of the "Daily Express" I am sure earns as much as £5,000 per annum. This is just why the Opposition members think that everybody is paying that much to people.

Sir, I want to assure the House again, and my hon. Friends on that Side in particular that I am serious and honest when I say that the Managing Director of the printing corporation is not paid £5,000.

Mr F. A. M. Amadi (Nsukka Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, this morning the Minister of Finance, I think, said that this country was heading towards what he described as democratic socialism. But it appears to me, Sir, that we are perhaps giving credence to the statement that modern society survives on hypocrisy. When I look at the particular Heading we are discussing now I find that we have South-West Ikoyi Development Scheme and Victoria Island Reclamation and Develop-

[MR AMADI]

ment Scheme. I remember, Sir, that not very long ago we heard that people were required to send in applications for plots in these areas. Now, as far as I know, plots have been given out and the information I had is that these plots have gone to capitalists. So I begin to wonder whether we are really heading towards what was described as democratic socialism.

When you look at the Estimates, Sir, you find very often Government buildings and quarters. It is my view that if we intend really to build a democratic socialistic state then our workers must be encouraged to occupy buildings which will become their personal property after some time. It is no use asking us to vote money year in and year out to maintain and equip buildings which really bring no money for the Government. Is it true, Sir, that these plots are given out to people who do not really need them whereas we have civil servants and other workers, and even the indigenes of Lagos constantly living as tenants to these capitalists.

The Minister of Finance rose, and Mr Amadi resumed his seat.

Several hon. Members : He has not finished ! He has not finished !

The Chairman : Order, order. The hon. Member, Mr Amadi, resumed his seat, so I thought he had finished his speech. If there is no point of Order being raised, the hon. Member need not resume his seat unless he does not wish to continue speaking.

Mr Amadi : Mr Chairman, Sir, I hope I have not been misunderstood. The point I am making is that these plots should go, not to people who already have plots, whom I look upon as capitalists, but to the people who have not got plots, possibly civil servants in the Federal territory who evidently are going to make these plots their home. They should be encouraged to take plots so as to have their own homes there. That is the only point I am making there.

The other point I want to make concerns the broadcasting system. I had said something the other time on the Floor of this House about the broadcasting service. I still want to underline the fact that the service should take the trouble to project Nigeria correctly to the outside world. Whether they depend

on Reuters or not, let the news be left out completely rather than give a wrong impression about our own affairs.

It is wrong for the N.B.C. to broadcast such news. Whether or not it is received from the Reuters Agency, any news that is not in consonance with our own ideals must be left out completely rather than give the impression that we are divided amongst ourselves.

I want to emphasise this also—it is very important—that this country should make people know what we think through our broadcasting service. It is impossible to hear Nigerian news outside Nigeria at present. I think it is worth while speaking on this, especially now that the Government is thinking seriously about establishing a broadcasting service which will go outside the confines of this country. It is overdue and I praise the Government for taking that step now. Let it be taken up immediately so that we can be heard outside the bounds of Nigeria. When you go to Ghana and to Sierra Leone, you will hear nothing about what Nigeria is doing.

Also it is no use hearing the same thing hour after hour. We hear the same thing in the morning at 6.30 a.m., the same thing in the afternoon at 1 o'clock and still the same thing in the evening at 7 o'clock ! Does it mean that nothing happens in this country ? Our news agents must be more astute, Sir, and let us hear something new not stale news. I feel that our broadcasting service should be more active in doing this for us.

Sir, before I take my seat, I want to emphasise that our broadcasters should take the trouble to learn how to pronounce Nigerian place names and proper names. I still emphasise that visitors and foreigners depend on the N.B.C. for their understanding of how our names are pronounced. A person visiting this country who wants to go to Akure, for instance, takes on the wrong impression if he hears the name wrongly pronounced. The name of the Leader of the Opposition, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, could be badly pronounced by the use of the wrong accent. Let these people take the trouble to learn to pronounce these names properly.

From the B.B.C. news reading we learn how some English names are pronounced and we call it B.B.C. pronunciation. I am not asking

them to learn every Tom, Dick and Harry's name. I am asking them to learn the place names and the names of people who matter. Let them take the trouble and compile a dictionary of place names and study how to pronounce them.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to make three points on the earlier part of the speech of my hon. Friend. I want to say, Sir, that this Government has a housing scheme for its civil servants. Not only is land provided, but advances are made to the civil servants to build houses for themselves provided that they will live in those houses. (Applause).

The second point I wish to make is that it is not true that land in Ikoyi, or anywhere in Lagos, had been given to Syrians and Greeks and Lebanese. The fact of it is that the recent allocation was balloted for and it went to all and sundry, and therefore the Minister had lived above board. Those who are now unlucky in the sweepstake or balloting should blame their luck and not the Minister concerned.

Now, all of us will agree, and, I am sure the hon. Members representing Lagos in particular, will agree that the landed property owned by Syrians and Lebanese were never given to them by the Government. Those who applied and won in the ballot, because they have no money to build, hawk their land and sell to the Syrians and the Lebanese. (*An hon. Member : Why do you not prohibit it by law*)? Sir, these are the facts. I do not want to waste the time of the House.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): Mr Chairman, Sir, the true position about allocation of land at the South-West Ikoyi development scheme has been narrated. It was true that the Minister of Lagos Affairs published it in the papers that there was going to be a ballot. Therefore, if anybody is unlucky, that is his own lot. But what I want the Minister to do is to help the people of this country, when they get these plots of land, to get money to build them, otherwise they will be hawking them, as the Minister said.

I will now speak about the equipment used in the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation. This N.B.C. was formerly known as Nigerian

Broadcasting Service. For the information of Members who did not know the facts of these things, our broadcasts cannot be heard in Ghana or the Cameroons or in Cotonou because the materials being used are second-hand ones used in the B.B.C. Now that we are independent, we should vote money and buy good materials. We do not need to buy from England alone: we can go to Germany or Russia or anywhere else and buy better equipment.

When these old equipments from the B.B.C. were brought over to this country, we did not have a ministerial system of government, and no Minister followed them to England to see what they were buying. Who does not know that? It is the same thing with this Government National Press which is being established. Can anybody tell me, even the Minister of Information, that he knows the factory from where they bought the equipment? They were bought by the expatriates, and they are second-hand equipment. That is the reason why our National Press must fail—because the equipments are not good. We believe what the Minister of Finance has said—that the Managing Director, with all this second-hand equipment, is not paid £5,000. If he is paid £5,000, it is just too bad. We rely on the statement the Minister of Finance made that our Managing Director and his Board of Directors numbering about 12 are not paid £2,000, £2,500 or £3,000. It is just too bad for an initial stage of things.

If you want to build a sound national press you must not start salaries with £3,000, £5,000, and therefore, I will ask the Minister concerned if there is any fact in the allegation made from the speech of Members here to-night he should please review it. A lot has been heard about things going on in this country and when we talk in this Parliament our speeches are not read only in this country, they are read all over the world, and that is the reason why we must say what is happening.

Sir, I beg to support.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have only a few points to make with regard to the broadcasting system of this country. It is gratifying to note that the N.B.C. has undertaken external broadcasting service and is also undertaking a

[SHETTIMA ALI MONGUNO]

Federal Television Service. These are projects which are really most welcome and we are looking forward to enjoying them. But may I say that it is most frustrating that a country like Nigeria, with its size and population and a country which has recently gained independence, and a country looked upon by several other countries for leadership, cannot be heard just a few miles outside. Go to Brazzaville. What will you see? A far less impressive building is the Radio Brazzaville. Ours is much more impressive, but what is inside? Not quite empty. Sir, I am not a technician but I am sure our N.B.C. could do far better than any other surrounding country's broadcasting system. I have visited Chad, I have visited Niamey in Niger Republic and I have visited each of their radio stations. Their buildings are certainly not as good as ours. What I can only liken the studios here to is, I am very sorry to say, just a rotten egg. Very impressive outside, producing stale news, biased news.

Sir, there is room for improvement under this service. News, especially when we start external broadcasting service, should not only be from reliable sources, it should also be accurate and unbiased.

Again, Sir, I come to conditions of service. Members of the staff serving under this Department certainly deserve better attention.

After all, if it is a Federal institution, it must certainly excel in every respect a Regional service. It should be better in all respects than any of our Regional Broadcasting Services and it should by far beat the radio stations surrounding Nigeria. I have said this before, and I would not hesitate saying it again unless and until tangible improvements are made to improve the situation in this Department.

Sir, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Four Million, One Hundred and Seventy-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Third Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1960-61, under Head 605—Other Capital Expenditure, be approved.

Resolutions to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Resolutions reported without Amendments, read the third time and passed.

And it being 10.29 p.m. Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 4 (10).

Adjourned at 10.29 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Monday, 17th April, 1961

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! I have to inform the House that I have received a letter from Chief O. Oweh, Member for Urhobo West, announcing his resignation from the House as from this day, consequent upon his appointment as Nigerian Ambassador to the Republic of the Ivory Coast. (*Loud Applause*).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Establishment of Local Football Pools

***O.50. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, what proposals he has for establishing local football pools in Nigeria in order to minimise the outflow of money from this country.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs : The Federal Government are deeply concerned about the outflow of capital to foreign football pools, and have been in consultation with Regional Governments and with foreign business interests on the question of establishing a National football pool in Nigeria. These discussions have reached an advanced stage, although they are not in any way complete, and I cannot anticipate at this stage what the final outcome will be. However, the House may be assured that I will inform them at the earliest possible moment of this Government's proposals.

O.114. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, whether the Federal Government plan to operate the proposed football pool or are encouraging a private foreign business firm to own and operate the pool.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs : Sir, I have to refer my hon. Friend to the answer I have just given.

Statistics of Foreign Religious Missions

***O.173. Dr B. U. Nzeribe** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many foreign religious missions and missionaries are there

in Nigeria ; how many of them are British, Irish, American, and others ; and how many belong respectively to the Roman Catholic Protestant and Muslim denominations.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs : It is not clear whether the hon. Member by Missions means Mission stations or Missionary Societies. There are religious Missions representing 41 denominations in Nigeria. Of these, 16 have headquarters in Great Britain, one in Northern Ireland, 17 in the United States and 6 in other parts of the world. Of these Missions, 39 belong to the Protestant denominations, one is Muslim, while a large number of different societies go to make up a Catholic Mission.

The number of expatriates a Mission may employ is not controlled, since the general policy is to welcome missionaries, and therefore I cannot give the hon. Member figures for the different missionaries that are in Nigeria.

Dr Nzeribe : This is a very simple question about the religious missionaries in Nigeria, and it is amazing that we have no record of the number of missionaries in this country.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : The numbers of missionaries that come to this country are not controlled, and if it is the wish of the hon. Member that the influx of expatriate missionaries should be controlled in this country, he should put in a Motion.

Prisons—Protection of Young and First Offenders

O.174 Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, what precautionary measures are being taken to protect the young and first offender from the influence of the hardened and habitual prisoner in the Federation.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs : As far as overcrowding and accommodation permit, the following form of classification is effected in all prisons. Remand and awaiting trial prisoners are separated from convicted prisoners. All female prisoners are confined in separate parts of the prisons where they work and sleep. First offenders and young prisoners are segregated from ordinary prisoners. In Lagos a prison has been built at Kirikiri, Apapa, to accommodate 600 First Offenders and selected Second Offenders. Likewise, Kakuru Prison Camp in

the Northern Region is reserved for Long Term First Offenders specially selected as suitable for this type of open prison. The following prisons and camps have been appropriated for short term First Offenders:—

- Lamingo Valley Camp—(Northern Region)
- Abeokuta Prison Camp—(Western Region)
- Calabar Prison Camp—(Eastern Region)
- Benin Prison Camp—(Western Region)

I hope that by October of this year the new Borstal Ordinance will be brought into operation in the Lagos area which, I trust, will decrease the number of youths sent to prison, thus further avoiding the danger of contact with more hardened criminals.

Federal Loans Board

O.115. M. Balarabe Tafawa Balewa asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will consider reviewing the purpose for which the Federal Loans Board can grant loans, in order to enable prospective applicants to have a wider choice.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: The matter is under consideration in my Ministry.

Insurance

O.116. M. Balarabe Tafawa Balewa asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will consider nationalising insurance companies or establishing Government sponsored ones to compete with the foreign companies.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): No, Sir, the views of the Federal Government in regard to nationalisation are already well-known.

As regards the second part of the question, the Federal Government has other more urgent tasks to accomplish with the funds at its disposal and sees no merit in entering a field already adequately served by private enterprise and in which it has been demonstrated that Nigerian participation is feasible and, apparently, profitable.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): May I ask the hon. Minister, in view of his reply, whether he does not think that it was a waste of time and energy for him to set up a Parliamentary Commission on Insurance?

Industrial Projects

O.117. M. Yushau A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many industrial projects have been set up solely by the Federal Government; where they are situated; what kinds of industries they are; and how many there are in which Government is in joint ownership with private concerns.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to Question W.2 as recorded in the *Official Report* for the 4th April, 1961.

Export of Nigerian Produce

O.118. Mr E. C. Akwiwu asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will state the principle under which the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company allocates Nigerian Produce to Shipping Lines for export.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: The Nigerian Produce Marketing Company is a private company, financed from public funds, belonging to the various Nigerian Marketing Boards. In spite of persistent pressure, the company has been most reluctant to engage in f.o.b. terms of sale which would have enabled buyers to arrange for their own shipments. This would have had the effect of making Lagos and Port Harcourt important centres of world produce trade and would have satisfied the requirement so often made on the company by buyers from various parts of the world.

As I have already informed the House, I have no powers of direction over the company but I am taking steps to consult the various Regional Governments with a view to remedying this anomaly and thereby making the company serve the interests of Nigeria in a better way.

Prices of Motor Vehicles

O.119. Mr E. C. Akwiwu asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he is aware that cars and motor vehicles of indetical make, model and quality cost considerably more to purchase in Nigeria than in some neighbouring West African countries, such as Ghana; and if he can say why those of Nigeria should be considerably more expensive.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: The information at my disposal shows that the prices of some motor vehicles are more expensive in Ghana than they are in Nigeria and that others cost more in Nigeria than they do in Ghana. For example, the retail price of an Austin A55 saloon is £24-15s-0d higher in Accra than in Lagos, while a Vauxhall Victor sells in Lagos for £22-10s-0d more than it does in Accra.

In general, one would expect motor vehicles to cost more in Nigeria as they attract an import duty of 20 per cent *ad valorem* compared with the Ghana rate of 15 per cent *ad valorem*.

Soap Factories

O.120 Mr E. C. Akwivu asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will state how many soap factories there are in Nigeria at present and where they are located; whether he will state what grade, if any, of palm oil is sold to these factories and the prices per ton; and how they compare with the prices at which Nigerian palm oil is sold abroad.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: Of the five principal soap factories, three are located at Aba, one at Apapa and one at Kano. There is additionally an indeterminate number of smaller factories operating in many parts of the country.

I understand that the grade of palm oil sold to factories in their Regions by the Eastern and Western Region Marketing Boards is that known as Technical Palm Oil, Grade I. An exact price cannot be quoted as prices vary from Region to Region and from month to month: it is, however, equated to the current world market value in the previous month so that, in general, the return is identical irrespective of whether the oil is sold overseas or locally for the manufacture of soap.

Mr E. C. Akwivu: Does the Minister consider it conducive to the development of soap industry that they should buy at the same price as the outside market?

Beer Prices

O.176. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he is aware that the distributors of beer, especially

"Star" brand, are charging prices higher than the recommended wholesale or retail selling prices; and if he will make a statement.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: The answer is No, Sir. If the hon. Member will provide me with the facts I will bring them to the notice of the breweries concerned.

Establishment of Industries in Bornu Province

O.177. Shettima Ali Monguno asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, the plans he has for establishing appropriate industries in Bornu Province, especially along the Chad shores where cattle and fish are plentiful.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: It is not our policy for the Federal Government itself to establish industries, but my Ministry has given considerable attention to the problem of assisting in the development of industries in Bornu. An investigation into the possibility of developing the export of meat from Northern Nigeria to markets in the South and in adjoining territories has recently been carried out, and discussions have been held with a number of commercial firms with the object of expanding this trade.

With regard to fishing, one of the main problems is to improve the methods of preservation, and the Federal Institute of Industrial Research is now engaged on the development of improved methods of fish drying. In addition to this the Federal Fisheries Service is carrying out an investigation at Lake Chad itself with a view to seeing how the industry may be expanded and improved.

Flour Mills

O.178. Shettima Ali Monguno asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if there have been any applicants wishing to set up flour mills in the Northern Region; and what places in Northern Nigeria he considers to be suitable for establishing this industry.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: Assuming the hon. Member refers to wheat flour, no applications for assistance under the industrial development legislation have been received by me from *entrepreneurs* wishing to set up in the Northern Region.

If the wheat growing experiments now being undertaken in Northern Nigeria are successful, then areas would commend themselves as being well suited for the establishment of a flour mill.

Factories

O.179. Shettima Ali Monguno asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, the necessary requirements which must be fulfilled before any factory can be established.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : In most areas in Nigeria, a factory can be established without formality. In some urban areas, factories can only be established in areas zoned for industrial development. The requirements of the Factories Ordinance relating to registration, safety, health and sanitation and welfare must be complied with.

Human Rights

O.121. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Justice, whether he proposes to amend the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, 1960, to bring it strictly into line with the Criminal Code in so far as fundamental human rights are concerned.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice : This question appears to have been based on two recent cases argued by the Minister in the Federal Supreme Court. The references to that clause on the constitutionality of sections 51 and 59 of the Criminal Code are both cases on Sedition. The first is against Dr Chike Obi and the second is against the Amalgamated Press, the publishers of the *Daily Express* and *Sunday Express*. Members will recall that the Federal Supreme Court upheld the submissions of the Minister in both cases to the effect that human rights provisions in the Nigerian Constitution have not invalidated the existing law of sedition as contained in our criminal code. In view of this ruling, there is no need to amend the constitution in the manner suggested by the hon. Member.

Appointment of Judges

O.122. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Justice, what are the qualifications required of candidates wishing to be appointed as Judges; who has the last word in the appointment, and why.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice : The qualifications pertaining to the appointment of Judges in the Federation are contained in the Constitution. In the case of the Chief Justice of the Federation, he is appointed by the Governor-General acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister. Federal Justices are appointed by the Governor-General acting in accordance with the advice of the Judicial Service Commission of the Federation. A person shall not be qualified to hold the office of the Chief Justice of the Federation or Federal Chief Justice unless :—

(a) he is or has been a Judge of a court having unlimited jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters in some parts of the Commonwealth or a court having jurisdiction in appeals from any such courts; or

(b) he is qualified for admission as an advocate in Nigeria and has been so qualified for not less than ten years.

The Chief Justice of the High Court of Lagos is, like the Chief Justice of Federation, appointed by the Governor-General acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister and, Judges of the High Court of Lagos are appointed by the Governor-General acting in accordance with the advice of the Judicial Service Commission of the Federation.

Qualifications for the holder of the office of a Judge of the High Court of Lagos are similar to those required of the Federal Chief Justice.

The Judicial Service Commission of the Federation is constituted under section 120 of the Constitution as follows :—

(a) The Chief Justice of the Federation, who is the Chairman;

(b) The Chief Justice of each of the Regions;

(c) The Chairman of the Public Service Commission of the Federation; and,

(d) One other Member who shall be appointed by the Governor-General acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister.

Jurisdiction of Magistrates

O.123. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Justice whether he proposes to increase the jurisdiction of Chief Magistrates and Magistrates in order to decrease the volume of work of Judges.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is not proposed to increase the jurisdiction of Chief Magistrates and Magistrates. The civil jurisdiction of a Chief Magistrate as contained in Section 114 of the Magistrates Courts Lagos Ordinance Cap. 113 is limited to claims not exceeding £500 and in criminal matters a Chief Magistrate may impose a maximum sentence of five years' imprisonment or a fine not exceeding £500.

The civil jurisdiction of a Magistrate, Grade I is limited to claims not exceeding £200 and in criminal matters he may not impose a sentence of more than two years' imprisonment or a fine exceeding £200.

To ensure that Judges are not unduly over-worked, it is proposed to appoint two additional Judges to the High Court and also to appoint two additional Chief Magistrates for Lagos.

The power to increase the jurisdiction of Magistrates is vested in the Governor-General, who can only act on the recommendation of the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice of the High Court of Lagos made no recommendation to the Governor-General for the jurisdiction of Magistrates to be increased.

Bribery and Corruption

O.170. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Justice how many cases of bribery and corruption were handled in Lagos last year; how many people were convicted and how many discharged.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice: There were nine cases of bribery and corruption handled in Lagos last year in which two persons were convicted and seven acquitted. Six further cases are pending.

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East): Is the Minister satisfied that these two cases out of nine represent an adequate number of convictions for such cases of corruption?

WORKS AND SURVEYS**National Hall and National Stadium**

O.67. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how much was spent on building the National Hall and the National Stadium respectively; and how long it took to build each of them.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: The estimated final expenditure for the National Hall is £454,000 and it took 22 months to build.

Expenditure to date on the first phase of the National Stadium is £356,575 and it took 19 months to build.

Inter-Regional Boundary Disputes

O.124. Mr E. A. Odo asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he is aware of the inter-regional boundary disputes between the people of Northern and Eastern Nigeria; and what his proposals are for settling these disputes.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: Yes, Sir. This matter has been debated by this House on a Motion of the hon. Member. As will be seen from pages 1857-1859 of the Daily Report for 26th April, 1960, the Minister has fully explained the position to the hon. Member. The settlement of local uncertainties in the boundary is properly the concern of the Eastern and Northern Regions and they have been requested to do so.

Uya-Oron Bridge

O.125. Mr O. J. Eminue asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if the design for the new Uya-Oron bridge on the Aba-Oron Trunk Road 'A' has been completed; and when Government propose to start work on this bridge.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: The design work is in hand. It is expected that the work will be carried out early in the next Road Programme, 1962-67.

O.126. M. Balarabe Tafawa Balewa asked the Minister of Works and Surveys the average annual expenditure per mile on the

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[M. BALARABE]

maintenance of Federal trunk roads; and if the amount varies from Region to Region or is uniform throughout the country.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: Mr Speaker, Sir, the averages cost of maintenance per mile for the country as a whole is £310. The average cost varies between Regions because of different proportions of tarred and untarred roads and differences in traffic density.

Kaduna-Tegina Road

O.181. M. Ali Gwarzo asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, what steps Government have taken on the Motion passed on 12th April, 1960 in connection with "Kwanar Mutuwa" on the Kaduna-Lagos road.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: Work will start within a month from the Kaduna end on the reconstruction of the Kaduna-Tegina section which includes the spot referred to by the hon. Member. The contract covering this work provides for making "Kwanar Mutuwa" safe.

Kontagora to Telwa Road

O.182. M. Usman Turaki asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether he is aware of the poor condition of Trunk Road A 15 from Kontagora to Telwa, and what steps he is taking for its immediate improvement.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: Yes, Sir. The road is in need of reconstruction but no funds are available for this section of Trunk

Road A 15 in the present Programme. It is expected that the project will be included in the next Programme, 1962-67.

Motor Vehicle Licences

O.25. M. Saidu Zango asked the Minister of Finance, the total amount realised by the Government in 1959-60 from motor vehicle licences.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance: The total amount realised by the Federal Government from the licensing of motor vehicles in 1959-60 is £383,990 approximately.

Government's Shares in Foreign Firms

O.127. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Finance, if he will name all the overseas and foreign firms or businesses operating in Nigeria or overseas in which the Federal Government possess shares; and what the Government's shareholding in each case is.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance: The Federal Government has no shares in any overseas and foreign firms or businesses operating in Nigeria or overseas.

Federal Government Loans

O.187. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Finance, what is the extent of the Federal Government's borrowing since 1950: and how much of this is outstanding.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance: The list of loans raised by the Federal Government since 1950 is long, and with your permission, Sir, it is proposed that it should be included in the *Official Report* of to-day.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S BORROWING SINCE 1ST APRIL, 1950

		Amount of Loan	Amount Drawn or Outstanding	Remarks
		£	£	
EXTERNAL LOANS				
<i>Repayment Date : 1964-66</i>				
3½%	1951	Funded Loan	6,800,000	6,800,000
	1959	Special List 'B' Loan	1,529,000	961,938
	1960	Special List 'B' Loan	205,000	126,651
	1960	Special List 'B' Loan	247,920	181,707
	1960	Special List 'B' Loan	500,000	122,252
				Interest free; re-lent to Northern Region
				Interest free; re-lent to Eastern Region
				Interest free; re-lent to Western Region
				Interest free; for the Federal Government

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EXTERNAL LOANS					
<i>Repayment Date : 1961-85</i>					
		£	£		
6½%	1960	United Kingdom Exchequer Loan	3,000,000	3,000,000	Re-lent to Northern and Eastern Regions
<i>Repayment Date : 1962-78</i>					
5½%	1958	International Bank Loan	10,000,000	9,017,419	Re-lent to Nigerian Railway Corporation
<i>Repayment Date : 1961-80</i>					
6%	1960	Commonwealth Assistance Loan ..	12,000,000	3,130,000	Repayable in 38 half-yearly annual instalments
<i>Repayment Date : 1961-68</i>					
	1960	Israeli Loan	3,000,000	—	£2m. to be re-lent to Eastern Region, No with drawal yet
Total, External Loans			37,281,920	23,339,967	
INTERNAL LOANS					
<i>Repayment Date : 1990</i>					
3%	1950	University College Ibadan	25,000	25,000	
<i>Repayment Date : 1957-77</i>					
3½%	1955	Northern Region Marketing Board	693,300	589,967	Repayable in 20 equated annual instalments
4½%	1956	Northern Region Marketing Board ..	3,224,000	2,784,336	Repayable in 20 equated annual instalments
3½%	1955	Western Region Marketing Board ..	880,000	748,840	Repayable in 20 equated annual instalments
4½%	1956	Western Region Marketing Board	4,092,000	3,533,965	Repayable in 20 equated annual instalments
3½%	1955	Southern Cameroons Marketing Board	53,400	45,441	Repayable in 20 equated annual instalments
4½%	1956	Southern Cameroons Marketing Board	248,000	214,180	Repayable in 20 equated annual instalments
<i>Repayment Date : 1958-78</i>					
3½%	1955	Eastern Region Marketing Board ..	373,300	317,662	Repayable in 20 equated annual instalments
4½%	1957	Eastern Region Marketing Board ..	1,736,000	1,499,258	Repayable in 20 equated annual instalments
<i>Repayment Date : 1960-67</i>					
	1959	Nigerian Railway Corporation : Telecommunications Loan ..	55,000	39,286	Interest free ; repayable in equal annual instalments
<i>Repayment Date : 1964</i>					
5%	1959	Development Loan	400,000	400,000	Re-lent to Northern and Eastern Regions
<i>Repayment Date : 1969</i>					
5½%	1959	Development Loan	600,000	600,000	Re-lent to Northern and Eastern Regions
<i>Repayment Date : 1979</i>					
6%	1959	Development Loan	1,355,360	1,355,360	Re-lent to Northern and Eastern Regions
<i>Repayment Date : 1967</i>					
5%	1961	Development Loan	2,000,000	2,000,000	£1.4m. re-lent to Northern and Eastern Regions
<i>Repayment Date : 1977</i>					
5½%	1961	Development Loan	4,000,000	4,000,000	£3.42m. re-lent to Northern and Eastern Regions
<i>Repayment Date : 1985</i>					
6%	1961	Development Loan	4,000,000	4,000,000	£3.49m. re-lent to Northern and Eastern Regions
Total, Internal Loans ..			23,735,360	22,153,295	

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[Appropriation (1961-62)]

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FLOATING DEBT

	£	£
Treasury Bills (Special Issue) ..	2,000,000	2,000,000
Treasury Bills (Ordinary Issue) ..	9,000,000	9,000,000
Total, Floating Debt ..	11,000,000	11,000,000
GRAND TOTAL ..	72,017,280	56,493,262

Federal Finance Committee

O.188. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Finance whether it is a fact that the members of the Federal Finance Committee whose duty it is to examine the loss of public funds have been told that there will be no more such meetings for the year 1961-62; and if he will make a statement.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : I am not aware of any committee exercising the limited functions to which the hon. Member has referred in his question. However, a weekly meeting of officials from the Federal Public Service Commission, the Federal Audit Department and my Ministry is held to examine every case of loss of public funds. These weekly meetings have not been discontinued.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1961-62) BILL

(THIRD ALLOTTED DAY): *Considered in Committee of Supply.*

(House in Committee)

HEAD 44.—MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

Question proposed, That £1,188,970 for Head 44—Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations—stand part of the Schedule.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Chairman, Sir, in reply to questions from hon. Members I promised to report to Parliament on the recent Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference. There are two points which I wish to make clear at the start. The first concerns the withdrawal of South Africa from the Commonwealth, and I want to say that in my considered opinion this will greatly strengthen the Commonwealth. So long as one Member openly advocated racial discrimination, it was impossible to accept that the

Commonwealth was indeed an association of free and equal nations, rather it was a consortium of powers who associated with one another, not because they shared common ideals, but for mutual material benefit.

What happened last month, Mr Chairman, has I think, literally purged the Commonwealth. It is my belief that the Commonwealth can now wield tremendously powerful influence for good in world politics. (*Applause*). As for South Africa, we shall continue to press in every way possible, and at every opportunity, for the reversal of their present policy of racial discrimination. (*Hear, hear*).

There is no question of such action being interference in the internal affairs of another country. The policies at present being followed by the Government of South Africa constitute a threat to the peace of the world. They offend so grossly against what are commonly believed to be the rights of all human beings that in many other lands there are groups who organise meetings and demonstrations in order to bring pressure on their Governments to take action against South Africa. This question is clearly one which affects the peace of the world and is, therefore, the concern of all. Myself, I see nothing but trouble ahead in South Africa if the present Government refuses to face the facts and to learn from what has happened in other parts of the world. Why, they have an appalling example almost on their door-step. I refer, of course, to the Congo where the Government, I mean the Colonial Government, concentrated on providing material benefits for the Africans but denied them political development. And we have all seen the ghastly and tragic result of that mistaken policy.

The second point I want to make is about the nature of the meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers which I attended last month. It is intentionally termed a meeting rather than a conference because our deliberations are held in private and each Prime Minister speaks his mind freely and makes his personal contribution to the discussion with a view to

adding something of value. We waste no time on what might be called 'propaganda speeches' but we concentrate on a frank exchange of views. Much of what is said on these occasions is naturally of a confidential nature but I think that this sort of meeting symbolizes the very existence of the Commonwealth which is a free association between peoples and not in any way a rigid alliance. Such an opportunity to exchange views with other Prime Ministers is a very great value since one hears, perhaps, ten other points of view as well as a great deal of factual information based on the experience of individual Prime Ministers. So, even though I cannot divulge everything that was said at the meeting. I ask you not to under-rate its value.

At the beginning of the meeting we held a general review of the international situation as a whole with each Prime Minister mentioning those problems which particularly affected his own country and then we proceeded to discuss a limited number of more pressing problems which are of common concern to us all and, indeed, to the whole world. First and foremost with the situation in the Congo and on this there was a most useful and frank discussion. And I am very glad to say that we were unanimous in our support for the United Nations, as the only safe means of restoring order and of securing the independence and the integrity of the Republic of Congo. And here, I should like to say something about the difficult and dangerous tasks which our Nigerian soldiers and police have been dealing with in the Congo and to tell you why it is in your interest that we should maintain them there.

From time to time, there has been considerable pressure for their withdrawal but to have brought them back to Nigeria would have been to play straight into the hands of those powers which are seeking to profit out of the chaos of the Congo. I may say that I am very proud of the manner in which our soldiers and police have conducted themselves and I do assure you that they have done a wonderful job of work. (*Hear, hear*). In Leopoldville itself the Nigerian police have been patrolling without arms and this is a thing which has never been done there before and it has made a tremendous impression on the people of Leopoldville who had always previously connected the forces of law and order with brutal methods of suppression. Our police have

been patrolling in company with Congolese police who have been quick to learn the advantages of humane behaviour.

Our soldiers have had a very difficult task to perform and the real difficulty has been that the United Nations force was too small to meet all its obligations. Armed bands of Congolese soldiers have been wandering about the country under no control whatsoever, just plundering and generally making a nuisance of themselves. In addition, tribal jealousies have been used in some places to start what has virtually been a civil war. The United Nations forces have been trying, as far as possible, to restore law and order and to protect innocent Congolese from bands of armed robbers. They have acquitted themselves well in the most difficult circumstances and have received personal letters from Mr Hammerskjeld paying tribute to their courage. They have done well. They have made a significant contribution to the maintenance of world peace and to preventing the armed intervention of the great powers in that troubled area.

May I ask you therefore, to weigh your words very carefully before speaking on this subject because it is most disheartening for our soldiers when they read statements saying that they should be recalled because they are not serving any useful purpose. At present, they are containing the situation and reinforcements are now reaching them. Three thousand Indian troops are on their way to the Congo and other nations have also started to help. I think, therefore, that a solution may be in sight and I am proud that our two battalions, with the other United Nations forces, have succeeded in holding out so long and in preventing the whole country being overrun by civil war and more important have prevented a situation arising which could be used as an excuse for intervention by outside powers.

We, in Nigeria, tend to think that the Congo presents a pre-eminent threat to the peace of the world. Unfortunately, there are two other areas which are almost equally explosive. In the Island of New Guinea to the north of Australia there is a very great threat that fighting will break out between Indonesia and Holland. We were, therefore, very interested to hear from my friend, Tunku Abdul Rahman, the Prime Minister of Malaya, of the personal efforts which he has been making to mediate between

[THE PRIME MINISTER]

the two opposing sides. This again exemplifies the nature of the Commonwealth relationship. The Tunku feels quite free to pursue his mediation without prior reference to his fellow Commonwealth Prime Ministers and merely tells us what he has done. Of course, we wish him success in this venture but there is no question of the Commonwealth as a whole becoming involved in the negotiations.

The other very serious threat to world peace is presented by Laos, a small country to the south of China. The situation is very confused there and what makes it even more confusing is that the two leaders have almost identical names—Phoumi and Phouma. Here is a case where the United States of America is helping one side and the Russians are helping the other side. We in the Commonwealth all think that the happiest solution would be for Laos to be enabled to enjoy independent and neutral existence. And I am glad to say that the efforts of Mr Nehru and other Commonwealth Leaders appear to be meeting with some success. This rivalry commonly known as a cold war, is a terrible business and it is really intolerable that the world should have to live under the constant threat of extermination and that billions of pounds should be squandered on weapons of destruction rather than devoted to the economic development of the world and the abolition of poverty and hunger.

One solution to this problem could be provided by general and complete disarmament. Recognising that this is probably the most important question facing the world to-day we had a long discussion on the best method of making a new approach to it. The change of government in the United States of America has given an opportunity to renew the effort to try to find some workable solution. The ultimate aim is of course to achieve a total world disarmament and to procure the complete abolition of the means of waging war of any kind. The first difficulty is to find a starting point which will be acceptable to both sides. Nothing short of total disarmament can be the ultimate objective because any of the highly developed countries after agreeing to a plan for partial disarmament could re-arm in a very short period. And even if total disarmament were effected no agreement could possibly cancel the technical

knowledge already acquired and unless there is a genuine agreement based on good faith we should continue to live under the threats of rearmament.

It is this mistrust which is so difficult to deal with. The Russians fear that all the Western Powers want to do is to establish a system of inspection and control as a cover for espionage in the Soviet Union. Yet it must be admitted that no plan for disarmament can be acceptable without inspection and control to prevent rearmament. On the other hand the Western Powers fear that the Russians' proposals for immediate total disarmament are merely a pretext for removing American troops from Europe and giving her a practical advantage. Clearly I think any plan for total disarmament would have to be implemented in phases and a balance would have to be maintained at all stages between the two major power groups.

Furthermore, I do not see that any scheme can be effective unless all the world powers agree to participate in it. This is a very important point. No scheme can be effected unless all the world powers agree to participate in it. It seems to me useless to carry negotiations farther than the opening stages if some of the principal military powers are left out of the consultations.

Another problem is that by a fairly wide agreement certain weapons and forces should be permitted to be retained for internal security purposes. There is a danger that such forces could be turned to aggressive purposes.

On one point, however, we all found ourselves in agreement. That was an immediate suspension of nuclear tests. We feel that every effort should be made to secure rapid agreement for the permanent banning of nuclear weapon tests by all nations. We in Nigeria have particularly strong feelings on this matter and I must say that I was glad to find so much support for the banning of nuclear tests. Such a ban not only protects the atmosphere from further pollution with dangerous radio-active matter but it will also limit the number of countries which possess the knowledge to manufacture a nuclear bomb. The more countries that possess the secret the greater the danger

that some accident will occur and the final destruction of the world would be brought about unintentionally. I want the House to know that the amount of these nuclear bombs already in existence are enough to destroy the whole world in no time.

The final main subject to be discussed is the structure of the United Nations Organisation and its councils. You may all have been aware of the current suggestions for altering the structure of the Secretary-General's Office. There is also the need to bring the Security Council more into line with the present development and to procure representation of the smaller nations on a wider basis. The membership of the United Nations is double since its inauguration in 1945 and I think that every one will agree that some modifications are necessary.

Another unwelcome development of recent years has been the increasing use of the General Assembly of the United Nations for propaganda speeches. It is true, of course, that many of these difficulties are only reflections of the present world tensions and unless these tensions themselves can be reduced it is difficult to foresee any effective solution. Any changes in the structure of the Councils of the United Nations or the position of the Secretary-General and the organisation of the secretariat can only be effected with the general consent of all members. Nevertheless, we are all agreed that whatever adjustments might be made or might be desirable we must never lose sight of the primary duty to uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the independent character of its Secretariat.

Well you may think that apart from the question of South Africa it seems to have been a fairly inconclusive meeting. I assure you that it will be very wrong to underrate the value of those exchanges of views. I and my three colleagues who accompanied me were impressed by the spirit of the meeting. Political leaders from the Commonwealth countries have come together for free and frank discussions of the world problems and with only one aim, namely, to ensure the peace of the world. As I said earlier the Commonwealth is not a rigid alliance. We came away without signing our names to anything and without having committed ourselves to any specific course of action. But I am sure that everyone went

away feeling that as the result of the meeting he was more fitted to deal with the terrible problems confronting the world. (*Applause*).

Chief Obafemi Awolowo (Remo Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, may I on behalf of the Opposition thank the Prime Minister for giving us this comprehensive report. I am, however, not contributing to the debate on the report at this stage. The grounds covered by the Prime Minister are too wide in my view and beyond the scope of the Committee of Supply. I think this report should have come before now. In any case it is already given and I would like to know from the Prime Minister whether it would not be advisable in the interest of this House and the country to put down a separate day for the debate on this comprehensive report. A time, say, after the Northern Election in May, say, the last week in May would be quite appropriate, or any other time that the Prime Minister may choose. I think, Sir, that it will be quite unfair to call upon hon. Members to debate this speech, or report, during the Committee of Supply. We are expected to be very sketchy at this stage in the proceedings of the House. I think, Sir, that the other Prime Ministers who attended the Commonwealth Conference made reports separately and distinctly from the business of the House such as we are on now. I want to know from the Prime Minister whether it would not be more appropriate to have a separate date for debate on foreign affairs. (*Applause*).

The Prime Minister: Mr Chairman, Sir, I find it a bit difficult to understand the Leader of the Opposition. Surely after the return of the Prime Minister from a conference or from somewhere else it is common for a report to be made to Parliament and if the Leader of the Opposition or any of his colleagues wants to table a Motion to debate either a point or the whole report they are entitled to do so. I do not think I am quite improper Sir, in making this report because I have been consistently telling this hon. House that I will be making a report to Parliament about the last Prime Minister's Conference. The Leader of the Opposition in his last sentence said "A debate on foreign affairs".

We cannot have a more appropriate time to debate on Foreign Affairs than on these Estimates. That is how I take it. I remember I promised the Opposition sometime ago that I

[THE PRIME MINISTER] would definitely, after independence, make our Foreign Affairs policy a subject for debate in the House, and we debated it, and I thought we had not departed from the policy. But if the Opposition feel we have departed, it is for them to table a Motion here and then we can debate the Motion.

I think it is quite proper to make this report to Parliament at this point, and if the Opposition feel very strongly about any of the points I raised, then, of course, they can put down a Motion for a debate.

Chief Obafemi Awolowo (Ijebu Remo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, may I say, in reply to the remarks of the Prime Minister, that he has chosen a most inappropriate time for making this report. I did not want to criticise him for making the report too late. I think Mr Macmillan made his own report within 24 or 48 hours of the adjournment of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, but our Prime Minister did not see fit to make a report to this honourable House, and to the country, until this stage in the Committee of Supply.

I still repeat, Mr Chairman, that the Prime Minister will only be doing justice to this House and to the country by allowing his report to be debated at a time outside that allotted for the Committee of Supply. This is a very important report. He has spoken about the Congo; he has spoken about the structure of the United Nations; he has spoken about a host of vital matters. I do not know how long it took the Prime Minister to prepare his speech which he read out to us this morning. We also want to have time to prepare our own speeches.

We have views on foreign affairs too. If we knew that this was to be an occasion for debating the Prime Minister's report, and not only the report of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Meeting, but that we would also go over the whole range of foreign affairs, we would have been accordingly prepared.

I am sure that the Chairman knows very well, more in fact than most of us, that the Committee of Supply is an occasion for making minor criticisms of the policy of the various Ministries. It is not an occasion for heavy-weight policy statements such as the Prime Minister has made. I think that the Chairman should

let the Prime Minister know precisely what the convention is. I think the time has been wrongly chosen and I want to say that the Prime Minister is very very wrong indeed.

The Prime Minister : Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not accept that I am wrong, and, as far as procedure in this House is concerned, I think I might claim to have more experience or a little more knowledge than the hon. Member. (*Hear, hear.*)

Really, Sir, the hon. Leader of the Opposition had his chance. Foreign Affairs was mentioned in the Speech from the Throne: he had his full 30 minutes on that, and he did not raise any question on that. The speech on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill is where we say many things, apart from economic and financial policies.

Now, if, of course, I want Parliament to approve something, I have to bring it to Parliament to approve. But I have just reported to Parliament and I pointed out in my speech that none of us signed his name on anything after this Conference, and so none of us was committed to anything.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I should like to seize this opportunity to express once again my views with regard to our foreign policy.

The success of any independence state depends, to a very large extent, on its foreign policy. It is the key post to its political security, the door to its economic assurance, the testing ground of its confidence and prestige in regard to its neighbours, and finally, to us in this country, it is a material effort towards Nigeria's leadership.

Mr Chairman, in my speech on the Floor of this House on the 5th of this month, I recounted some of our achievements in the last six months. I also expressed some of my views with regard to Nigeria's problems in Africa. It is fitting, Sir, that I may be allowed to say a word or two on some of the lines which I feel are more appropriate to Nigeria in dealing with its foreign affairs in general. There is, in actual fact, nothing new in some of the lines already taken by the Federal Government in handling its international affairs.

Mr Chairman, Nigeria is one of the countries which do not want to side any one of the two conflicting blocs. The tendency which led the non-Communist countries such as India, Pakistan and Nigeria to remain neutral is an obvious weakness on the part of the Western Powers, and this weakness, Sir, is the resultant operation of some of the countries in the Western Powers by their mishandling of and their misbehaviour in international politics soon after the Second World War. It was since then that the Western Powers, with which we had common heritage of democracy, made many attempts in their political derailment to sabotage the principles of liberal democracy.

The first of these attempts, Sir, was made at the Quebec Conference immediately after the War, when the present Governor-General made the following remarks about it in a column called "The Inside Stuff By Zik" in the *West African Pilot*—

"So the Quebec Conference was to strengthen the strong ;

So the Quebec Conference was to see that all is well that ends well ;

So the Quebec Conference was to initiate America into the Sacred Order of Imperialism.

No wonder Soviet Russia was absent.

Say the Holy Scriptures :

By their fruits ye shall know them."

Sir, this was the comment made by the present Governor-General on that occasion, and events have proved exactly the contents of this comment.

Take, for example, how colonial problems are handled by the colonial powers in the Western Bloc. See the situation in Algeria, in the Congo, in Angola, in East and Central Africa, South-West Africa and Ruanda Urundi. Their sources are nothing but mere vested interests of the colonial powers which are in the Western Bloc. See also, Mr Chairman, such countries' role at the United Nations. Britain and America, for example, cannot vote against Belgium's interests even if its selfish interest is contrary to international justice and fairplay, because they just belong to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

There are also instances, Mr Chairman, when the question of maltreatments in many dependent territories such as Ruanda Urundi,

Algeria and the Congo are discussed at the United Nations. Experience has shown, Sir, that friendly powers of the countries responsible for such maltreatments always give their formal disapproval of such facts and paralyse the whole show through a gentlemen's agreement of abstention.

There are also instances, Sir, when countries like China, with a population of over 600 million people—which is about a quarter of the world's population—cannot be admitted into the United Nations. My argument here is that whatever is the reason behind the refusal to admit China into the United Nations, countries which did not like to admit China should not at the same time recognise and admit the South African Government. (*Applause*). What reasons can those powers give to convince the world that the South African Government is better, more humane and more democratic than the Government of the people's Republic of China? (*Applause*). (*An hon Member: No reason*). My argument is that the weaknesses of the Western Powers are damaging to their reputation and prove beyond doubt that they take a new attitude of using force at the expense of moral foresight.

Sir, I have nothing against the countries in the Western Powers. But I wish to say that although we remain neutral and are supposed to share the same principles of democracy with the Western Powers I feel embarrassed if any misgivings come from those quarters.

The Federation of Nigeria has a duty of educating its friends of the Western Bloc about their weaknesses. It will undoubtedly be to the best of their advantage, and no amount of aid from the bigger nations in the Western Bloc can satisfy the under-developed and smaller nations better than rectifying their weaknesses. Nigeria has a duty, Mr Chairman, to concentrate its efforts in the United Nations Organisation on making representations for the admission of countries in Africa and Asia into the Security Council in order to represent the interests of non-committed countries. The question of veto by the big powers, like the United States and Russia, should also be abolished because it is too unbecoming to see it still exist in this international body.

[M. IBRAHIM GUSAU]

Nigeria has a duty, Mr Chairman, to use its common-sense and experience in pursuing the so-called policy of neutrality. I spoke about this during the debate on the Motion of thanks to the Governor-General for the Speech from the Throne. In the light of experience, Sir, countries which preach the gospel do not actually practise their preaching. There is the tendency of a breach and abuse of this meaning. The tendency is wide. But the only solution is that Nigeria should firmly preserve the principle of neutralism and gradually give a trial to liberal neutrality.

I am sure that liberal democracy is the best among democratic systems, and I have the feeling that liberal neutrality may at the same time be the best amongst neutral systems. Absolute neutrality, as I see it and in the light of experience, stands for absolute rigidity in the rapidly changing world, while liberal neutrality stands always modern and ready to serve the purposes of all times. After all absolute neutrality is a human thought and idea, and there is no reason why I shall not acclaim liberal neutrality as my personal conviction.

In short, Sir, all that I intend to say is that Nigeria should be prepared to face with decency the 20th century approach to the 20th century problems with which it may be confronted. (*Applause.*)

Prince D. N. Abii (Owerri East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to thank the Prime Minister for the report he has just given to the Parliament this morning. But at the same time I would humbly ask the Prime Minister to know that it is the wish of Members of this House that a special time be given to us to debate foreign matters. (*Applause.*) He has been doing very well since his time of appointment as Prime Minister of this country, and many of us who forecast him in the last Parliament to be the first Prime Minister of this country are very happy to see him prove to be correct what we thought of him.

But I wish to tell him, after this statement, that the question of foreign affairs must be taken very seriously. We are not to-day satisfied to sit down in Nigeria and allow our name to be used by many other countries as they like. The Prime Minister has remarked that our soldiers in the Congo might not like

certain expressions of many people in this country after the death of Lumumba, when they demanded the repatriation of our soldiers from the Congo. But I want him to know that our soldiers should not be worried. We are not saying that they are not doing well. What we mean by asking them to be returned to this country is that in our nature and way of life, when two factions are fighting and you go there to see that they do not kill themselves, you cannot afford to stay there and see one of them kill the other. (*Applause.*)

That was why the people of Nigeria got annoyed, that the United Nations went into the Congo and stayed there and saw Lumumba killed. Therefore our request that our soldiers be recalled should not at all mean that we have no praise for what they are doing. (*Hear, hear.*) But that Nigerians do not like what the United Nations did, to see Lumumba killed in their presence. We have absolute confidence in our soldiers.

Another point I want to raise under this Head is that you will find that there is no substantive holder of this Ministry. (*Hear, hear.*) The Prime Minister is holding it with one or two other Ministers. We do not doubt his capability at all to hold any Ministry in this country under this Government, but we feel he must be spared his life. He cannot carry all this business himself alone. After all, can we get another Tafawa Balewa of his own type? Life has no duplicate. I feel that even though the overall Ministries of this Government should be supervised by the Prime Minister, he should have some substantive holders of these Ministries, especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Minister must be subject to him. There must be a substantive holder of that Ministry, but at the same time the Prime Minister himself must know everything that this Minister is doing. I feel really that he can control all the Ministries, even though the Ministries must have their substantive holders. After all, he is the Prime Minister of this Government.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I feel again under this Head that I should request my Government to go by what all the other Commonwealth Parliaments have been doing. In every Parliament in the Commonwealth there is a Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs. This

Committee should be summoned often and should interview all the delegates from other countries and they should gain a lot from them and report to the Government. I feel that now that we are starting, and we have really started well, as an independent country we must of necessity have at once this Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs composed of all the shades of the Parliament. (*Hear, hear.*)

This reminds me that I must thank the Prime Minister for his calculated method of life. I say it with all understanding that he is a man with an extra gift of wisdom. (*Hear, hear.*) Some of his appointments, to my own humble opinion, are appointments of grace and not of education. It occurs to me that the Prime Minister examines the why's and wherefor's, and as a result he appoints as Ambassadors those of our best who are eligible. They prove to be fit for the posts given to them.

Take, for example, the appointment of Chief Oweh and his resignation this morning. I remember that this gentleman is one of the old hon. Members of Parliament in this Government. He was in the last Parliament, and, for your information, he led a delegation of Parliamentarians to overseas countries, including Canada and other places, in 1958, and when he returned, I think, we had a Report of that delegation, and he did his work very well. He acted sometime here as a Minister for two months, and he did well, and proved himself adequately efficient. And then Chief Oweh, was also Secretary of the Mid-West Movement, which has led us to—

Mr Chairman : I think the hon. Member is going too far away.

Prince D. N. Abii : I was talking of Foreign Affairs, but for emphasis I tried to link it with Internal Affairs. This gentleman has been given a very good appointment as Ambassador to Ivory Coast.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I will end by saying that for the health of the Prime Minister and for the efficiency of his work he should find a substantive holder of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I support.

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I should like to associate myself with the hon. Member for Orlu North.

An hon. Member : He is the Member for Owerri East.

Chief A. Enahoro : I should like to associate myself with the hon. Member for Owerri East (*Prince Abii*) in his suggestion that a substantive Minister should be appointed. I think it must be recognised that our Foreign Minister is in a way our Chief Ambassador. The Prime Minister has not much time to travel, and, I think, that the work which, the hon. Jaja Wachuku has been doing at the United Nations would appear to qualify him for the post.

An hon. Member : Are you appointing Ministers ?

Chief A. Enahoro : I am suggesting, and I am entitled to suggest, and I make this suggestion lest the Prime Minister is tempted to appoint someone else like Mallam Ngileruma. (*Laughter.*)

Mr Chairman, Sir, I am glad that in regard to the request for a debate on the comprehensive statement which the Prime Minister made this morning all Sides of the House are agreed, and I do hope, notwithstanding the attitude we took here this morning, that the Prime Minister will reconsider the matter and provide time for this debate. It is impossible, hearing the Prime Minister for the first time make a comprehensive review of World Affairs in this House, and for the first time give the House the benefit of his views on disarmament, and the problems of the United Nations, to make up our minds within a few minutes as to whether we endorse his views or not.

Sir, I think that those who have given thought to the Foreign Policy of this Government will agree with me that it is a bit untimely to decide that we have our hearts in the right places and that we are moving in the right direction. We are much too slow, and, in some respects, we are weak to the point that nationalists from other countries of Africa regard Nigeria as handmaidens of the imperialist power.

I recall that in this House last week the hon. Minister of Information, or some other hon. Member, complained that our voice is not heard in the outside world. I would like to show you, Mr Chairman, these two publications, *Voice of Africa*. I think it is published by the

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Ghana Government. And another one, *Voice of Africa*, published by the same Ghana Government. Until the Federal Government recognises that there is a struggle for leadership on this continent, and would make its own publication and take part in the general competition which there is on this continent among all countries, I think we will find that we will continue to be led by others. It is not enough for us to have the right view. The Prime Minister spoke here this morning, and one was delighted to notice the very strong views he expressed on South Africa. But this was after almost everyone had expressed the same views. There is nothing new in the statement. The important thing is to lead.

I do hope that an opportunity will be provided for us to debate even the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference separately, because there has been a lot of back slapping and patting one another on the back since the Prime Minister came back. Those who read the World Press would have noticed that when Dr Verwoed complained about the Prime Ministers' Conference, or the attitude there, the first persons to whom he referred were the Prime Minister of Malaya, the President of Ghana, and the Prime Minister of Canada.

An hon. Member : And the Prime Minister of Nigeria.

Chief Enahoro : No. That came later. It came later with others—with all the other Prime Ministers; and therefore it is quite clear that those who led the agitation against South Africa at that Conference were those individuals. We are delighted that the Prime Minister has found himself completely at one with them, but I merely make that comment in order to bear out what I say that it is not enough for us to be right. We must be leaders of this continent.

You have organisations like the *All African Peoples Conference* which consists of Trade Unions, Political Parties, Cultural Organisations all over this continent. They are heavily supported by various Governments. The Government of Ghana, and even the Government of Liberia, I understand, have made a donation of 25,000 dollars to that organisation. We have done nothing in this country. Representatives of the Parties in power here have not been at the last two or three Conferences of the *All African Peoples Organisation*.

How can you hope to play a leading role in the affairs of this Continent if we are going to run away from these continental organisations because we are afraid that they may be used by other countries? I said, Sir, that our policy is weak and slow. There is a lot of trouble going on in Angola, the Prime Minister will not say anything, there will be no statement from the Government until everyone else takes it up, until Dr Nkrumah says something and Sekou Toure says something and then we follow. (*Interruptions*). Is it not high time that we tried to lead?

Last week, Sir, I said that the true nationalists in this country must regret the role which it is reported that the U.K. High Commissioner is playing in this country. I was going to say hon. Prime Minister is not here, but I see he is back—I think I am right to say so. On that occasion Sir, I promised the hon. Prime Minister that such facts as I might have in that regard would be made available to him, and I have great pleasure in passing this report to him.

Now, Sir, this is a report of some of the activities of the U.K. High Commissioner. I think that we are rapidly approaching the time when there may be a request for the Prime Minister to demand the recall of this gentleman from Nigeria.

However, Sir, I think that in one respect, not only is our Foreign Policy weak and tardy but we are also burrying our heads in the sand. The cold war is world wide, we cannot escape its effects and I do not, speaking for myself, believe that we can isolate ourselves, that we can run away. I think Sir that one's attitude to the cold war must be positive.

If I may quote what the Prime Minister said on one occasion: "I know who is right, but I will not say". I think Sir, that the Prime Minister must tell us whom he considers is right. It is not enough to know who is right. After all what is the problem in the world to-day? No one knows who is right. You go to the Congo, no one knows who is right; and in regard to the cold war, no one knows who is right. I think that if God has so blessed the hon. Prime Minister that he knows who is right, he should also give us the benefit of this wisdom and his know ledge (*Applause*). That is what the

world is looking for, that is what the whole world is looking for, and I hope, Sir, that when the Prime Minister replies, he will take the opportunity to tell us who is right, because we are looking for leadership. If we know who is right, it will not be difficult to follow the right path.

May I also associate myself with what hon. Abii said in regard to our troops and police in the Congo. We all think they have done a wonderful job, and it may well be that, but for their presence, the situation in the Congo would have deteriorated. I suggest that after this meeting, a message of congratulations should go to them from this Parliament. (*Applause*).

I would now like, Sir, to deal very briefly with one or two matters in the Estimates. What strikes me immediately, Sir, is the provision for Missions, *Embassies and Missions*, and one notices there that there is provision for only eight Missions, I think, apart from the U.N. Mission. I did say last week that I thought the Prime Minister was dealing with this matter much too slowly and that we ought to treat it as a major operation. One must admit that people have to be trained, but we knew long ago that we had to train people. I am very sorry indeed that one cannot find in the Estimates any indication that, later this year, *Embassies* are likely to be opened in such places as Moscow or in Rome or in Tokyo or in Western Germany. I suggest that the pace at which we are moving is much too slow, and that, even if there were a re-distribution of the existing staff, if necessary, it should be undertaken because it does not appear to me that the material at the disposal of the Prime Minister has been properly distributed.

A new appointment was made this morning to one of our neighbouring countries. We are all Africans, we are all neighbours, we ought to see more of one another. But I suggest, Sir, that it is at this moment far more important for us to have an Embassy in Moscow, than in some of the nearer places.

One also notices the provision made in respect of the Office of the High Commissioner in the United Kingdom. It is my information, Sir, that the High Commissioner for Nigeria does not fare so well in respect of allowances from the funds at his disposal as some of his Commonwealth colleagues. I think it is most

important that this should not be the case. I hope that the Prime Minister will be able to assure this House that the High Commissioner for Nigeria in the United Kingdom enjoys at least the same emoluments and allowances as his Commonwealth colleagues do.

M. Aminu Kano (Kano East): Mr Chairman, Sir, there is no doubt that many of us have been expecting to have a much more appropriate time to discuss Foreign Affairs in this House especially in view of the fact that a lot has taken place since this country became independent. However, I shall content myself with the time given us and hope that the Prime Minister, as he said the other day, will find time to allow a much more comprehensive debate on this important subject.

I should like to comment first of all on this question of Nigeria remaining in the Commonwealth and its role in the Commonwealth. First, Sir, I think that even though the people of this country have accepted to be within the Commonwealth care must be taken that our relationship with what we call the "Mother Country", which is the United Kingdom, is not a relationship of someone being greater or superior to one another, but what I gather is happening is that the United Kingdom or at least some High Officers or Ministers or Commissioners from the United Kingdom do not up till now get rid of the inhibition that they are not here as masters of our destiny.

Sometime ago, not more than two months ago, an hon. Member of this House made reference to the activities of the British High Commissioner in this country. This Member was entitled as an hon. Member to say anything he liked especially when he thought that the right of Nigeria was being infringed by a foreigner. He made reference to the British High Commissioner and his activities. Soon after that he received a letter, a letter signed by the British High Commissioner in this country, asking the hon. Member to come to tell him and explain why he made that speech. (*Interruptions*). He said that in view of the cordial relationship between Nigeria and Britain this hon. Member should not have made that speech and that he wanted this hon. Member either to come to him for tea or he himself would like to come to him to explain why he was playing this role.

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If after Independence an Ambassador or a High Commissioner from Britain representing his own country should come and insult us by his behaviour then we should reconsider our stand in this Commonwealth. There is no reason why we should not send a protest to Britain for this insult. (*Interruptions*). If in our country this man behaved like this what will happen if it were in London. So I would like our Prime Minister to investigate, to interview this hon. Member who made this speech and who also received the letter, to meet the British High Commissioner in order to get an explanation why he, the hon. Member should not have made that speech. The right person to question hon. Members here is the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister can question the right of any Member—(*Interruptions*). I would like the Prime Minister to take a very serious view of this because if we allow it to go on like this time will come when allegations will be made that the British High Commissioner is behaving as if he is the head of the Nigerian Government. That is one point Sir.

The second point I would like to touch is South Africa. I think that everybody is happy now that South Africa is out of the Commonwealth. The Prime Minister himself has said that he forecasts trouble in South Africa. That is true. There must be some more trouble between the African people in South Africa and the White people in South Africa. I feel that there must be plans by us, by all the Governments of Africa, first, to find ways and means by which we can sponsor South African people for scholarships, for training and if need be organise the nationalists of South Africa, I mean the African nationalists who have worked for freedom to come out of South Africa and form a provisional government of South Africa. Let us recognise that provisional government of South Africa and let us give them aid like the Algerian Provisional Government of to-day. Because there is no doubt to-day that between us and Verwoerd is war. Whether we like it or not war is declared between Verwoerd and Nigeria and other African countries.

Now our role in the Congo. There have been some criticisms that Nigerian soldiers and police should be withdrawn. I refuse to share that view. I do not believe that we should withdraw from the Congo because by going to

the Congo we fill a political vacuum and if we should withdraw from the Congo who is going to fill that vacuum? The white people of Southern Rhodesia, or the Belgians, or the French or the British? Even if our soldiers are slapped on the face; the gangsters led by General Mobutu had stolen our property and they pinched watches from our men—what is all that? We cannot defend in this Parliament what is happening in the Congo. I do not believe that we should withdraw because by withdrawing we are inviting the white imperialists to come back and in the end restore peace and order and go out to say that Africans could not restore peace and order in the Congo but that they themselves could do so.

Sir, from my experience at the United Nations, I feel that the countries on whose door I should put the blame are the United States of America and Britain. The question has been asked in the United Nations, in the Political Committee and in all Committees, who is financing the army of Mobutu? It is true that the Government of Congo had no money, the United Nations is providing the money to pay their Civil Servants. But up till to-day nobody has been able to tell us who is paying for the army of Mobutu, who is supplying modern arms to Mobutu men—they say the American Central Intelligence Agency. This American Central intelligence Agency is the one paying for Mobutu Army and his Forces and everything.

One last thing, Sir, with all the blame we put on Belgium and with all their actions we condemn, not one single Power in Western Europe or in Latin America has ever come out to condemn the role Belgium is playing in the Congo and Belgium is the very country which twice in 25 years was invaded by Germany and cried and called for help and asked all the people of the world to come and shed their blood in order to restore their sovereignty. It is this very Belgium to-day that is insulting not only the United Nations but is going flagrantly against all the Nations of the World in spite of the fact that they said they granted independence to the Congo.

We must not be afraid of exposing the role America is playing because when the Afro-Asian people passed a resolution calling for the reconvening of parliament in the Congo and for

the disarming of Mobutu men, the representative of the United States got up and opposed that motion; and once America opposes a motion, you could count on 22 votes out. Britain will not vote and will abstain very cleverly (*interruption*) and you will find in the end that only the Afro-Asian Group will be left floating. So if tomorrow there is any good intention on the part of Britain, America and the Soviet Union to see to the end of the trouble in Congo they could have it but they have interests there. We learnt that the Rockefeller Brothers have held 26 per cent of the shares of the Katanga mines in the Congo.

Nigeria is a new Nation, how can we, therefore, sit down and listen to preaching and sermons by the United States, by Britain and by all the Powers who have been very careful and very artful in their diplomacy. They could talk in a very solemn manner and in the name of God and democracy and yet what they will go about to do is worse than what the devil can do. So, Sir, we must be frank because if we are not frank with these people they will behave in the way Lord Head is doing here and they will take us for granted that last year we got independence and independence has qualification for certain people not independence in reality.

I hope that we in Nigeria must not be led astray by the fact that because we were slapped in the Congo, because Lumumba was dead and so on therefore we should withdraw. I shall not advise any withdrawal, we must stay there and join other African people and in the end we shall be the people to restore peace and dignity in the Congo. (*Hear, hear.*)

I want to praise the action of Nigeria in the United Nations when we come to debate the question of the admission of China—Mainland China—into the United Nations. I think Nigeria has done very well by voting solidly with the Afro-Asian Group to admit China into the United Nations. The only country which does not like China to be admitted is the United States of America. What Nigeria should now do is this, we must not recognise the Government of Formosa; if we do, and we can in the end win China into the United Nations we would not know what to do. Formosa is a small province of the Mainland of China and there are only 20 million people living in Formosa—it is the breakaway Katanga

of China—so that we will not hurt if we recognise China. By recognising China we are not Communist, we do not believe in Communism but there is no reason why we should close the door against 600 million people simply because one great Power in the United Nations does not like it.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I might say that the role which Nigeria has played in the United Nations was splendid.

Finally Sir, there is a tendency to-day that some people are recognising the Government of Gizenga or the Government of Kasavubu. I think Nigeria should recognise neither because once we recognise the Government of Ileo we are siding with Kasavubu's reactionary Group; and once we recognise Gizenga we are recognising the splitting of the Congo into bits. I think what we should do is to try our best to see that the Congo—the real Congo—the Parliament of Congo which was elected is reconvened. That particular Parliament should select its own Government, should select its own Prime Minister. We are not quarrelling with Kasavubu, Kasavubu is the Head of State. We are not quarrelling with him. We are quarrelling with Ileo who to-day wants to be recognised as the Government of the Congo and who was the rival of Lumumba who is now dead. So recognition of these two people to us is not diplomatic. What we should try to do is to continue working with the United Nations presently until the end when the Government of the Congo, the integral part of the Congo, is set up headed by any one which Parliament approves not by Ileo or by Gizenga.

So Sir, I would like to place on record that the part we shall play is the part of what my Friend here calls neutralism but there must be care in what we call "neutralism", it does not mean we should stand aloof and say nothing, it means actively participating or positively giving out our contributions until we reach the goal. So Sir, as regards the Prime Minister's speech I hope he will give us the opportunity to debate the motion.

The Prime Minister : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think quite a number of Members raised a lot of points. It is not my intention that the debate on this very important Ministry should be closed at all but I just want to reply to some

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of the points made by hon. Members while they are still fresh in my mind. Mallam Ibrahim Gusau suggested that Nigeria should see that Communist China is admitted into the United Nations. Well, we have made this very clear because I told the people in the United Nations and everywhere that I think it is wrong to have a Council of the World with one country of 750 million people out. (*Hear, hear!*) The population of China is 750 million not 600 million as some hon. Members say. So as far as the admission of Red China is concerned, we in Nigeria have made our stand very clear.

Mr hon. Friend Mr Abii still wants us to appoint a day, a special day, for debating Foreign Affairs. I do not know what he means by that because when we made our foreign policy, the Opposition asked for a debate and we had a debate on our foreign policy which seemed to be unanimously accepted by the House and we have been pursuing it, though my hon. Friend Chief Enahoro said it is slow but right, it is right but slow.

We are too slow according to him. He said instead of our going very slowly we should come out boldly and lead. And he suggested, Sir, that we should set aside sums of money for helping certain organisations which I am sure, in his own heart, my hon. Friend whom I know very well, in his own heart, does not support.

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East): How do you know?

The Prime Minister: I know Chief Enahoro; we discussed this matter so often, so I know how you feel about it, you see.

An hon. Member: Are you a Chief?

The Prime Minister: I am a chief, a paramount chief of Sierra Leone (*Hear, hear*). Now my hon. Friend Chief Enahoro, in all the meetings of what he called "All African Peoples Congress", which is a combination of the trade unionists, of politicians, all sorts of collections, he said that Nigeria, the Government Party was not represented. But I remember, Sir, that there was a conference of this kind in Accra, I think about a year ago and the hon. Member was selected to attend with some of the Members of Parliament.

An hon. Member: That is different.

The Prime Minister: That is different, but they will say it is an affiliated organisation more or less. I do not believe, Sir, that we can have an effective conference with trade unionists, politicians, ministers and all sorts of people without any aim in view, and then arrive at any conclusion or any fruitful result, I do not believe. I believe, Sir, that if in Africa, we are serious, we must really show results of what we do. Therefore, I believe in not merely to organize associations and give them high sounding names and then let them go to pieces, we do not care, we just make use of the name. I do not believe in that at all. I believe we can organise things, run them in a proper way as they do in other parts of the world, that is what I believe. (*Hear, hear*).

An hon. Member: You have to take charge of things.

The Prime Minister: Take charge of what? Well, sometimes we can tell them how we feel and how these organisations will be amended, but it is unfortunate that we are not given long notice of attending those meetings, that is the trouble. If we are given long notice and if it is properly arranged, definitely we will go and take part and contribute.

An hon. Member: Take control of the place.

The Prime Minister: Oh well, this is not the intention of Nigeria, we do not want to dominate anybody.

The Deputy Chairman: I think the Prime Minister's speech is being deliberately diverted from the Floor.

The Prime Minister: My hon. Friend, Mr Abii, asked for—I think I have dealt with this question of putting a separate day aside to debate Foreign Affairs. Chief Enahoro suggested as well as Mallam Aminu Kano and my hon. Friend Chief Awolowo that there should be a separate day for debate on the Prime Minister's Report from the Commonwealth Prime Minister's Conference. Sir, one is on Foreign Affairs and the other is on the Prime Minister's Report, and so I am confused. Therefore, the best thing to do is not to set any day aside and if hon. Members like, Sir, they can put in a motion which we can debate in this House.

Another thing, Sir, was mentioned by two Members, my hon. Friends Chief Enahoro and Mallam Aminu Kano. They referred to the British High Commissioner and my hon. Friend Chief Enahoro when he raised it during the debate, I think on the Address from the Throne, said that the U.K. High Commissioner has been interfering in Nigerian affairs. I was very surprised; so when we went out, I asked him: "Could you tell me what evidence you have because I really like to know? I am the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations and I should know. If the U.K. High Commissioner has any influence to exercise over the Nigerian Government, it should be through me. So please tell me." As far as I know, there was nothing and the gentleman, Sir, told me that he is in possession of a document which is the evidence he has. I am pleased, Mr Chairman, that this document which is now placed in my hand, is the report according to an individual of a press conference which the United Kingdom High Commissioner gave to some group of Journalists. It was alleged that he asked them, "Why they should criticise the Federal Government and what kind of Government they wanted to have if not a Federal Government."

An hon. Member : Is it not communism ?

The Prime Minister : We are coming, they are more than that, you know. We do not know what they have. I would very much, Sir, prefer my hon. Friend, Chief Enahoro, to read this document himself, I think it will be wrong for me to read it. It is now in my hand, but I feel honestly, something is urging me to read it out.

Several hon. Members : Read it, read it.

The Prime Minister : I think it is wrong, Mr Chairman, because he brought it out and I think it is wrong for me to read it out, and here is the document given to me.

Several hon. Members : Read it.

The Prime Minister : I do not think I will read it, these are the views of . . . (*Interruption*).

The Deputy Chairman : Order, order.

The Prime Minister : I want the House to listen to this. This is a note of a meeting with Lord Head repeat, note of a meeting with

Lord Head. It is somebody reporting on a meeting some members of the press had with Lord Head. Lord Head was reported to have asked the Journalists why they were criticising the Federal Government, and he asked them what kind of Government they wanted to have if not a Federal Government or something like that. And this was considered to be interference in Nigerian affairs. Well, of course, anybody can interview the press in this country, anybody, whether he is Lord Head or whoever he is, anybody can interview the press anywhere and anybody can express his views to the press—anybody—there is no harm in that at all.

An hon. Member : You have not disproved the allegation.

The Prime Minister : What ?

An hon. Member : Mallam Aminu Kano's allegation.

The Prime Minister : I am coming to that, just wait, you have just heard of it. But now when Chief Enahoro was speaking the other day, you were just jumping, you did not know anything about it and now you are talking about Aminu Kano's allegation. What I want the hon. House to know is, of course, we had been under Britain for many years, it is true, we had been under them, but we have got independence now and if we ourselves suggest that this independence is merely a name, I think we had better not have it.

Several hon. Members : It is too late.

The Prime Minister : It is not a question of being too late, we can be colonised again. I think, Sir, that it is not too late in the way some Members are talking about it. It is inferiority complex, it is wrong to have inferiority complex on these matters. We on this side feel that we are independent. (*Hear, hear*).

And, Sir, I feel a certain urge to read this letter; it is not very long. Anyway, I think it is ungentlemanly if I read the letter because the hon. Member should read it himself. It has been given to me through you Mr Chairman and there, I return it to you.

I said that these views were expressed in the form of notes at a meeting with Lord Head. Certain allegations were made and the man asked "why should you criticise the Federal

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Government?" To me he has every right to say so. Hon. Members, those of you who know such a report know very well what I am talking about. You see, the man said "Again Lord Head came back to his question of what we wanted Sir Abubakar's Government to do" and discussions went on this theme. "But Lord Head gave me the impression that Sir Abubakar is synonymous with British interest." You see, Sir, I had better take this man to Court. I will tell you the reason. This man who has written this report wrote in a newspaper that I secretly negotiated a very important matter with the British Government and that I had committed Nigeria over it. I am telling you the truth. It was written in the "Daily Express" that I went out of my way and negotiated something and committed Nigeria to it.

An hon. Member : What was it ?

The Prime Minister : You had better ask the man. I may not mention him, you know him. It is printed in the "Daily Express" quite clearly. And so, Mr Chairman, I think it is very, very wrong that we in this House must get up and make serious allegations. It might be that is the impression that was formed in the mind of that newspaper man ; it might be that was his impression. We have got a free Press in this country and it would be much better for this publication to be put out in the newspaper openly rather than for it to be made on the Floor of this House, I am returning it to the Chairman and I think he will keep it in his safe or he will make it public, as he wishes.

Sir, Mallam Aminu Kano spoke of a letter that Lord Head also wrote to one hon. Member of the House, who might be my friend Mr Ogunsanya. Was it Mr Ogunsanya ?

M. Aminu Kano : Yes.

The Prime Minister : Well, I have not seen the letter.

The Minister of Information (Hon T. O. S. Benson) : I have seen it.

The Prime Minister : I have not seen it and I do not know what it contained as the hon. Member has not told me anything about it at all. But it is quite a common practice everywhere if my country is accused of something not in clear terms, it is for me to ask for an

explanation because there might be some reasons for the accusation : I might have committed something horrible.

Mallam Aminu Kano : Mr Chairman, I would like to explain.

The Prime Minister : Yes, explain.

M. Aminu Kano : I think my opinion is that if an Ambassador of a foreign country wants to write a letter about anything or anybody, he should direct it to the Government of the country, or the Prime Minister, so that it might be dealt with at the appropriate level.

Several hon. Members : Yes, yes. That is quite correct.

The Prime Minister : This is very, very wrong, Mr Chairman. In diplomatic relations, I think it is unnecessary. If something is very important and really necessary, yes. But this is a friendly letter and I have not heard of it until to-day. It is a friendly letter and I think it is very unbecoming of the receiver of the letter even not to let me know of it before it should be brought to the Floor of this House. It is very unbecoming.

And, Sir, my hon. friend, Mr Abii, also raised this question. It seems to me that this matter has been drifting little by little to this side, you know. He agreed with the Leader of the Opposition on one occasion and now he seems to agree with them again that I am getting too old and that I should get another Minister of Foreign Affairs. Well, I want to tell my hon. friend, and as the Leader of the Opposition pointed out to the House the other day, he is a year older than myself, but he is still leading the Opposition, you know. Sir, I am a year younger, I can carry on the responsibility of the Minister of Foreign Affairs together with my work and, as I told the House the other day, I am not the only Prime Minister who is also the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations. Mr Nehru in India had been like this all the time since that country obtained independence, the same is true of the Prime Minister of Malaya.

An hon. Member : We are not in Malaya.

The Prime Minister : Well, he is also the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the same with the Prime Minister of Ceylon. That was why I decided myself to hold the portfolio.

Sir, mention was made in this House, Sir, and, of course, in my report, I referred to the Congo, but as there is a Motion coming up tomorrow on the Congo situation, I would rather withdraw my comments on the Congo until we debate the Motion tomorrow. But, Sir, as I told the House, foreign affairs is very complicated and I want, Sir, when hon. Members contribute to the debate on this subject they should be careful about what they say and they should really speak with all sense of responsibility.

Chief Obafemi Awolowo (Ijebu-Remo) : May I know from the Prime Minister whether he thinks that foreign affairs should be debated once and for all in this Parliament or that such a debate should be a regular feature? I want to know from the Prime Minister whether he thinks foreign affairs should be debated once and for all in this Parliament or that the debate on such an important subject should be a regular feature of our activities. Foreign Affairs are by no means permanent; they are continuous and perennial and the needs for them arise from time to time. The impression the Prime Minister gave is that we have debated foreign affairs once and there is no question of debating the subject again.

He also said that we ought to put up a Motion for a debate on foreign affairs, but I should say that we do not have to. It is not too much to ask the Prime Minister on the Floor of this House to name a date for the debate on foreign affairs. It is the duty of the Prime Minister to react favourably; either for him to name a date or both of us should meet and agree on a date for such a debate.

The Prime Minister : Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not think I gave the impression at all that this House will debate Foreign Affairs only once. We can debate it as often as we like, but it does not mean that whenever the Prime Minister makes a Report to Parliament the Report should be debated. If, of course, the Report contains matters on which I need the support and views of the Parliament, I will definitely do that.

Chief Awolowo : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think we disagree and I am sure that the majority of Members of this House disagree very strongly with the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has given us a report of the

Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference. The practice of most of his colleagues on that Conference which they have followed since they returned to their respective countries has been that on the giving of the Report a debate arises, and a day is set aside for such debate. We are now dealing with this Head of Estimates in the Committee of Supply and I insist that the Prime Minister should name a date when we can debate the Report, in the same comprehensive manner as he has given it.

Several Opposition Members : Even Verwoerd did so.

Chief Awolowo : Even Verwoerd, the devil of the piece, reported to his Parliament, and allowed a debate.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : Mr Chairman, Sir, may I first of all congratulate the Prime Minister and also the Government for the excellent work done through this Ministry since the achievement of independence. We are grateful, Sir, for the activities overseas carried out by our Government, especially with regard to the following: our representation at the United Nations and the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London.

Nigeria, Sir, should be proud of her representatives at the United Nations, especially of the Minister of Economic Development, Mr Jaja Wachuku, whose name is on almost every person's lips in Nigeria and who has done very good service not only to himself and the country but also to Africa and the world at large. In the field of Missions abroad, we have been represented and our members have played important roles in the field of international affairs and they have earned for us a name worthy of our great nation.

We have been also happy over the establishment of Embassies and the appointment of Ambassadors. At the United Nations very recently we rejoiced when Britain for the first time voted against South Africa; and she did so at the United Nations Security Council Meeting of 5th April, 1961, and it was read over the B.B.C. News Bulletin. That was the first time of Britain voting against South Africa, and it is simply because of efforts made by our Prime Minister, together with other Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth, in bringing about the expulsion of South Africa from the Commonwealth of Nations.

[SHETTIMA ALI MONGUNO]

One cannot help also but congratulate the Prime Minister once more for his speech delivered at the United Nations, and, having listened to it, I whole-heartedly say that it is a master-piece and worthy of our name. May I also say, Sir, that it is a step taken in the right direction when the Prime Minister promised to see to the admission of Communist China into the United Nations. However, I am reminding the Minister that efforts should be made to speed this up. Efforts should also be made at the United Nations level for effective sanctions against South Africa. Regrettably, Sir, recently Britain abstained from voting when this issue was discussed and a decision was to be taken. We cannot help but remind Britain that she can hardly have it both ways. She either stands and supports us and vote in our favour or let us know clearly whether or not she is indifferent.

Sir, another item—something which is currently discussed—is the question of the release of Jomo Kenyatta. Efforts should be made and the Prime Minister should use his good offices to see to the immediate release of Jomo Kenyatta (*Applause*).

This morning, Sir, from the report read to the House by the hon. Prime Minister, it was stated that there was need for modification at the United Nations over certain issues. I fully agree that such modifications would certainly help towards uniting nations and bringing about world peace. May I once more appeal to the Prime Minister to use his good offices also to bring about these modifications which are badly and urgently needed. It is often said that it is a very strong suspicion that the United Nations is the United States, or *vice versa*, the United States is the United Nations. This is mainly because whenever there is a decision to be taken at the United Nations whatever America says is the right thing—and to a large extent it is true, because one can easily predict a decision at the United Nations. If it is a motion tabled for instance, by any member of the Western Block, it is almost certain to go through; if it is on the other hand a motion tabled by any member of the Eastern Bloc, more especially by Russia, it is almost certain that it will be defeated. I think, Sir, that if we are to pursue a policy of non-alignment, we should use our discretion and see to it that we really and honestly do not belong to one particular Bloc.

Unfortunately, Sir, in this House it was alleged by an hon. Member that at the last Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, the Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria was not the first to come out openly and say that South Africa should be expelled. Sir, I remember listening to one of B.B.C. programme, a radio newsreel, in which the Prime Minister of South Africa was interviewed and he did categorically say that it was the Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria who talked most. In fact he did not mention any other names. Maybe, Sir, it is just what is expected of the Members of the Opposition, opposing for the sake of opposing.

Finally Sir, may I appeal to this Ministry to speed up as soon as practicable the appointment of Ambassadors, Consuls, and the like so that we are fairly well represented in the countries overseas.

With these, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): Mr Chairman, I do not want to flog a dead argument but in spite of what the Prime Minister has said, I should still say that we of this Side are not commenting fully on the foreign policy now but as to how that policy which has been debated in this House is being carried out. That is what we want to debate and if the Prime Minister, I am sure, has nothing to hide at all in that policy, I think he should give an opportunity to Members from all sides of this House who have been clamouring for a date for this debate. He would thus only prove one thing, he would prove definitely that he appreciates the democratic set-up of this Parliament and the sovereignty of Parliaments all over the world.

With regard to the question of attitude of leadership which was mentioned by my hon. Friend, Chief Enahoro, I must say quite clearly that little Ghana is stealing the show from great Nigeria all the time. (*Shame, shame*). It is not because Ghana is more advanced than Nigeria but they happen to have a leader who regards the whole of Africa as a vast fatherland of himself and of all African peoples. He regards the whole of Africa as one, wherever the bell of humanity rings anywhere in Africa, be it in South Africa or Congo, he does not wait to see for whom the bell tolls but makes himself ready and goes to the trouble sports and there the voice of Ghana is heard.

But we have always had to wait, as my hon. Friend, Chief Enahoro has already said. Angola is now in the news but we have said nothing at all. We have to wait until Nkrumah has said something and then we come with some form of agreement or disagreement. I think that is not leading the country at all and whatever we may say with this attitude of Nkrumah, with this policy, whatever we may say of him, he is writing his name and the name of Ghana on the minds and history of the African people. African people all over the world are coming to regard Ghana as the symbol of a new dynamism, a new nationalism. That is the kind of leadership we want in Nigeria to-day. It is all very well for us to say in this Parliament 'great country' and say that kind of thing. If we are great, we cannot be great just by word of mouth. We must be great by action, we must lead while others follow us.

A few Members have mentioned the question of China. To my mind, for a long, long time, I have always regarded China as potentially the greatest nation of the world. If to-day they are very backward, it is not because they are too many; but a nation of 750 million people cannot be ignored for ever and we must be careful. We must be on the winning side and the right side too. I am very glad, and we do appreciate, that the Prime Minister has already made a statement that Nigeria will do all she can to get China into the United Nations. Three cheers. We are really very happy and we feel that when the Prime Minister or whoever will be the substantive Foreign Minister—because I am hoping very sincerely that the Prime Minister will take the speech of hon. Abii very very seriously to appoint a substantive Foreign Minister—I hope that that substantive Foreign Minister, whoever is representing us, will press to the extent that the whole world will know that Nigeria is definitely asking that China should be recognised as one of the great nations in the comity of nations.

One final point Mr Chairman, is the calibre of the Ambassadors we are sending out. I am now not referring to any particular person at all. I do not like to be misunderstood. So far, some, I say some, of the people that have been sent out are quite good people. There are one or two people who I think should not have been sent from this country. The ambassador, as the name implies, the ambassador of any

country is the symbolic representation of the character and nature of that country and if we send out nincompoop and people who have no strong views of their own or who do not understand the real issues at stake, I think we are jeopardising the place of Nigeria and also opening Nigeria to mis-representation and to being easily misunderstood. So, I am suggesting that before the Prime Minister appoints a representative of this country to any other country, he must probe that person's character, his antecedents and also his ability for the post. It is only men of sterling qualities and unimpeachable character that can do credit to Nigeria.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

The Prime Minister : I only want to reply, Sir, to a point made by the hon. Member because I feel very strongly about it. There is a tendency in this House as I observe and outside to try to compare Nigeria with Ghana. To me personally, Sir, I regard it as shameful for Nigeria to try to compete with Ghana in any way. It is shameful. That is how I feel and we should not show the slightest sign of being in competition at all. If it is football, sports—yes—but on these issues, I think it is very wrong and I feel very shameful. That is why, Sir, that every time I try to avoid giving the slightest indication that this country, Nigeria, is competing with Ghana. The last speaker said that even little Ghana is stealing the show from us. Well, I leave it to him. As far as I am concerned, I regard it as shameful for us to appear even to be in competition. It is shameful for us. That is what I feel.

M. Albatan Yerima Balla (Adamawa North West): Mr Chairman, I would like to reply to some points in the statement made by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister referred to South Africa, Laos, Congo and Indonesia but I am very alarmed to see that, in such a comprehensive statement on foreign affairs, no reference was made to colonialism in Africa. Colonialism is a disease in this continent—in Angola, in Southwest Africa, in Kenya and everywhere else, this has happened. It is important for a sovereign independent country such as Nigeria to fight colonialism because we want to see the complete liquidation of colonies, not only in the heart of Africa but in all parts of the world.

[M. YERIMA BALLA]

Mr Chairman, Sir, we want to move very fast and we have been very active at the United Nations. A Nigerian has been appointed Chairman of the United Nations Conciliation Committee on the Congo. We are very proud that, within two months of Nigeria's independence, a Nigerian has been appointed Chairman of an international committee.

Our soldiers have played an important part in maintaining peace in the Congo, but the fact that the crisis in the Congo is still continuing is due to the great powers such as the Soviet Union on the one side and the United States of America on the other side: Two great powers, each supporting some faction in the Congo; and we in Nigeria must be very careful in the diplomatic field because we are a young nation. We believe that the Western countries and the Eastern countries are fighting for their own interests. We have no territorial ambitions; we believe only in the liquidation of colonialism in Africa. We believe that any small nation in Africa must be allowed to maintain its stability.

I would like now, Sir to talk about disarmament, since the Prime Minister referred to disarmament. It is a very important issue for an underdeveloped country like Nigeria. We want complete disarmament, but disarmament will not take place except by balance of power and by getting some independent states in Africa and in Asia to participate in disarmament as can not be achieved by the great powers of the Soviet Union and America acting in isolation.

Mr Chairman, in a country like Nigeria we believe in neutrality, positive neutrality. We must take an active part in a policy which will benefit the people of Africa and which will maintain the peace of the world.

Another point the Prime Minister referred to concerns the dispute developing between the Indonesians and the Dutch, and that is also a question of colonialism. If we want to maintain ourselves we must remain Nigerian. We are not out to copy any other Nations. We have got our own thought. Allien books written by colonial powers, or any others, will not lead Nigeria anywhere because we believe that this country, with a population of approximately 42 million people, will take its rightful place in leading the African nations economically, politically, morally and spiritually.

We have no quarrel with any other Western power; we have no quarrel with any Eastern power; we want to maintain a good relationship with all the nations of the world.

Regarding the interference of others in Nigeria's domestic affairs which was mentioned this morning, I expected to hear the Prime Minister say that we shall never accept any dictatorship, whether from the quarters of the Eastern bloc or from the quarters of the Western bloc. Any Diplomatic Mission which comes to Nigeria must come with a clear heart and with intent to serve its own country in a decent manner. But if they interfere in our domestic affairs we shall not hesitate to tell them to leave this country within twenty-four hours. (*Hear, hear*). We must be a completely independent nation, and independent nation maintaining our sovereignty, maintaining the dignity of the African nations, and fighting through the United Nations organisation. That is the meaning of an independent nation.

The Prime Minister's speech refers to the structure of the United Nations. When the United Nations organisation was founded in 1945 there were only twenty-two members. Now there are ninety-nine members in the United Nations. The veto power is given to the Soviet Union and the United States of America in the Security Council. There are only eleven members of the Security Council, and we in Africa shall never agree that the big powers should run the whole show. We believe in the enlargement of the Security Council so that the people of Africa may get a permanent seat. A permanent seat for the people of Africa will redress the balance of power in the world body.

In the last six months the United Nations has completely failed to maintain peace in the Congo. The United Nations was invited by the Prime Minister of the Congo, Patrice Lumumba, and within three months after this he was put in gaol and was, later on, brutally murdered. The United Nations is setting up a black spot in world history. The United Nations has completely failed to maintain its very Charter. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Chairman, we here in Parliament, and the whole of Nigeria, feel that the United Nations contributed towards the nullification of the resolution sponsored by Tunisia and Ceylon. They did not put that resolution into

practice, and then Kasavubu dismissed Lumumba and Lumumba dismissed Kasavubu ! Immediately after this the United Nations intervened. They closed the airports, they seized the Radio Stations all of which acts were not laid down in the resolution sponsored by Tunisia and Ceylon and which was adopted in September last year during the crisis in the Congo.

The structure of the United Nations must be re-organised and in such a way that the Afro-Asian bloc will participate completely in this organisation.

The intervention of the Western Powers in Africa is a new form of Colonialism which we independent nations must guard against and Nigeria must be aware of.

This new colonialism by the British with their N.A.T.O. allies cannot be tolerated. It is the arms supplied by the N.A.T.O. powers which are being used in fighting against our brothers in Algeria. It is N.A.T.O. which is maintaining Mobutu against the population of the Congo, and Nigeria will not hesitate to tell the Western Powers that she is now no longer under the control of the British imperial power and that any interference in our affairs will be challenged by the Nigerian Government.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to say that the foreign policy, as formulated by our able Prime Minister is right (*Applause.*) It is only commonsense that one should cut one's coat according to one's size. We became independent a few months ago ; and now with the best will in the world can we be expected to do things overnight ?

An hon. Member : Then resign.

Alhaji Dandago : Even if we resign, you will not take over. Sir, I know some people are born to murmur. Even if they were born in the Garden of Eden, they would still murmur, they would still have something to complain of. That is why the people over there are always complaining, and always criticising unnecessarily. It is my candid opinion that even if the impression which the Prime Minister gave at the United Nations was not his, still he should be commended for taking the views of his country to the United Nations.

An hon. Member : Why did he not tell us ?

Alhaji Dandago : Well, you said he did not say anything new. It has been said here that he took nothing new there ; that on the South African policy, the country expressed its views. Yes, Sir, even, if it is so, if it is the nation's view that their Prime Minister took to the United Nations, still he did very well.

I hate these sentimental views about Ghana. Any time we do something which Ghana had done, we are accused of following Ghana. If we try to build our own policy, we are accused of apeing little Ghana. These irreconcilable people. How can we deal with them, Sir ? (*Laughter.*)

It might be that the people over there do not know that at the moment first-class brains are being trained to take up these foreign appointments in due course. This morning, we had the happy announcement that somebody, a Nigerian, a deserving Nigerian from this Side of the House is going to the Ivory Coast. Instead of these people kneeling down and saying thank you to the Government.

An hon. Member : For what ?

Alhaji Dandago : For his good services, they are now accusing us that we do not send an ambassador to Tasmania and the Far East. If we sent somebody there, these very people would accuse us of forgetting our next door neighbour.

An hon. Member : What is wrong with that ?

Alhaji Dandago : There is something wrong with your brains. There is nothing wrong with our own brains, we are not disgruntled, we are doing the right thing at the right time with the available money. (*Interruptions.*) I am of the opinion, Sir, that the Government is doing the right thing, and will continue to do the right thing as far as the foreign policy of this country is concerned. When you have nothing to criticise, please do not criticise. I think it is commonsense to remember that "if speech is silver, silence is golden".

The Chairman : Order, order ! it seems to me that hon. Members are repeating arguments already raised by some other hon. Members. I want to remind the Committee that we have some four other important Heads to consider as to-day's business, and so perhaps the Committee will allow me to put the question.

Question put and agreed to.

Federal Parliament Debates

1787

[Appropriation (1961-62)]

17 APRIL 1961

Bill : Committee]

1788

£1,188,970 for Head 44—Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations—agreed to.

HEAD 45—MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Question proposed, That £3,169,690 for Head 45—Ministry of Health—stand part of the Schedule.

The Minister of Health (Hon. M. Waziri Ibrahim) : Mr Chairman, Sir, "the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health by all peoples" is the primary objective of the World Health Organisation. "The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health by all Nigerians" is the primary objective of the Federal Government; and this objective of providing the highest possible standard of health to our people is one which will be achieved very gradually. It may be achieved in 10 years, 15 years, 20 years or 50 years, and this is the truth. Nobody should be led to believe that all the health problems of this country will be solved overnight or in a matter of few years.

Apart from financial reasons, customs and background, belief in native medicines, etc., contribute in making our health problems difficult. We, therefore, believe that the significant thing is the fact that we do know what our problems are, and that we have plans to solve the problems. We do not believe in doing anything in a rush. That Rome was not built in a day is very wise saying, and besides, in accordance with this Government's policy of approaching problems realistically and honestly, we shall approach our health problems calmly, believing that the ultimate objective is to provide the highest possible standard of health to our people. To solve our educational, health, social and other problems in a matter of just a few years is utterly impossible. Therefore, Mr Chairman, I wish to tell hon. Members that the humble sum of money we are asking Parliament to approve towards the improvement of health services in the Federal capital of Lagos is the maximum that can be afforded under the present state of the country's finances.

We are asking for a total of £662,260, additionally, to bring our estimated Budget for the year 1961-62 to £3,169,690. In the 1960-61 financial year, we asked for a total of £2,507,430. Now, out of this new amount

that we have asked for, that is, out of the £662,260, £178,970 will go as an increased subventions to the University College Hospital at Ibadan. Of the remaining £483,290, £152,920 will go to meet increased personal emoluments. Hon. Members will agree that one cannot expect to do very much extra service with the balance of £330,370. Nevertheless, that is all you can afford to appropriate.

As you know, we have other projects in the Federation, and this very moderate amount we are asking for is just the maximum which can be afforded under present circumstances. It is very simple.

We have got in hand uncompleted projects totalling roughly £2 million. I am not going to tell hon. Members what these projects are because they are already known : The Mainland Hospital, the improvement of about £300,000 to the General Hospital and so on. In spite of the fact that the sum of about £2 million, which will be spent in providing direct health services to the people of the Federal Capital, seems small, yet people in the Federal Capital enjoy health services at approximately £5 per head per year. In other parts of the Regions, the average spent per head per person is about five shillings.

Now, taking some international standards of health service, Mr Chairman, I would say that in the United Kingdom there is one doctor for over 1,200 people. In America, to roughly over 1,000 people you have one doctor. In the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic, we have no facts to prove the figure, but it is supposed to be something near about 400 to 300 people to one doctor. Now, in the Federal Capital, the figure is roughly 2,000 to one doctor. This is very near the figures which Britain and America have, 2,000 or over 2,500 to one doctor; but what is going to surprise you, and what will make you feel that the picture in Lagos is a false one, is the fact that in other parts of the Federation the average is one doctor to 40,000 !

Therefore, Sir, although we are still improving the health services of the people of the Federal Capital and, although it is human to continue to ask for more, even at the expense of the other fellow who has not got a similar service, or who has not got at all, it is, I think, reasonable for the Federal Government to

expect some appreciation of its efforts from the people of the Federal Capital. I think the people of Lagos are very lucky indeed. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order. These interruptions are very unnecessary and I think they must stop. Mr Ekanem and others must refrain from unnecessary interruptions.

The Minister of Health : Mr Chairman, Sir, the people of Lagos are very fortunate and they enjoy health services about twenty times those enjoyed by our sisters and brothers in other parts of the Federation who contribute not less than, and some of them more than, the people of Lagos to the revenue of the country from which are provided good health and other services. (*Hear, hear*). Therefore, one could only expect appreciation. We can only expect the people of Lagos and their representatives to say "Thank you" to the Federal Government for the health and other services provided for them, services well above the standards of people living in other parts of the country. We are conscious of our responsibility and we still hope to improve upon the present standard of health and other services in Lagos.

Now, to give you a brief idea of what we did during the 1960-61 financial year. The Island Maternity Hospital was opened with its two hundred beds. The average number of deliveries is thirty-two per day. During that period a total of 11,000 deliveries were recorded. At the Creek Hospital, a new dispensary with a waiting room was completed and the X-ray Department has been expanded. A new Boiler House has been built to serve the General Hospital and the Island Maternity Hospital. A new Out Patients' Clinic, with Maternity and Welfare Clinic, has been opened at Surulere to provide curative and preventive services. The Poly-clinic at Massey Street has provided a unique contribution to the curative services in Lagos. During the year, attendances at the Clinic totalled 134,834 of which eighty per cent were children under school age. The number of Child deliveries carried out by the Domiciliary Midwives Unit have slightly increased. Airport and Sea-port health services carried out during the year, show the following figures.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.15 p.m.

The Minister of Health : Mr Chairman, Sir, I was telling hon. Members about our Air and Seaport Health Services. The figures for the year 1960-61 are :—International passengers embarking—13,249; International passengers disembarking—12,362; Pilgrims embarking—1,360; our Pilgrims disembarking—1,359; Repatriated pilgrims—1,049; Total number of patients attended to—14,028; United Nations troops transited—6,748; Number of aircraft sprayed—2,208.

In the field of Preventive Medicine a very vigorous campaign against smallpox was carried out and statistics show that the number of people vaccinated was more than the recorded population of Lagos. We are, therefore, satisfied that at least ninety per cent of the population of the Federal Territory have been successfully vaccinated. At our Yaba vaccine laboratory, about one million doses of dried smallpox vaccine were produced and the major part of this quantity was sent to the Congo in response to an appeal by the World Health Organisation. Production of yellow fever vaccines has also been maintained. The Laboratory will be extended to enable production of smallpox vaccine to reach about ten million doses annually.

In the field of Medical Research, it is our intention to give all possible encouragement and assistance even though not many qualified Nigerians have shown much interest in medical research work. Survey on nutrition is being carried on vigorously and the importance we attach to the care of children is emphasised by the establishment of the Institute of Child Health at the University College, Ibadan. Investigation into African drugs and medicines is being carried out and hon. Members will see in the Estimates a sum of £3,500 allocated towards that direction. If we find it necessary to allocate more than this amount we shall, no doubt, do it. Some hon. Members have mentioned to me about African drugs and I have asked them to bring and forward them to the College of Arts at Zaria where they will be investigated.

Our activities in general sanitation were kept up particularly for the Independence celebrations when additional mechanical switch costing £5,000, night soil tankers costing £10,000, eight Bedford diesel tippers costing £7,400 and a number of refuse bins, litter bins industrial deoderants and extra labour

[MINISTER OF HEALTH]

were provided. I am sure hon. Members must have noticed the good appearance, the cleanliness of Lagos, during the Independence celebrations.

We have been active in our training programme of doctors and ancillary professions namely nursing, midwifery, pharmacy, laboratory technology, X-ray technology, health inspection. Although medical officers have been recruited to fill all the approved establishments, demand on the training programmes for the future cause staff shortage particularly in the registration of Senior House Officers grade. The University College Hospital has produced its first batch of Doctors and more will graduate this year. There is still need for advanced training in all specialist fields. We have been considering the recommendation of the Ashby Commission and its long-term reorganisation and the scheme for the training of Doctors and such proposals which the Commission has made in connection with training of more doctors are being considered. The Ashby Commission's recommendation in relation to the training of medical personnel is very sound and its implementation is being considered. Increased effort will be given to enable Nigerians to benefit from training facilities offered by the World Health Organisation, the I.C.A. and so on.

In Public health, we intend to extend the use of anti-malaria drugs to reinforce swamp drainage and larvaciding with oil. It is our intention to strengthen the health education campaign in co-operation with the Health Department of the Lagos Town Council. Now health education is something which has been overlooked in the past and we want to remedy the situation. It is very important. Unless people are educated enough to realise what constitutes danger to their health you cannot achieve very much. No matter how good the curative services may be if the public is not sufficiently educated to co-operate in preventing certain diseases by observing health rules then the Preventive Services or the Curative Service is not going to make a headway. We are thinking now of creating the post of Health Education Officer who will work in co-operation with the Health Department of the Lagos Town Council. School Education will also be encouraged. Of course,

all hon. Members know that a child's background is very important in his future approach to health problems. Therefore, we shall encourage school children to take more interest and pay more attention to simple health rules. Not even the child alone but also his parents have to co-operate with the Ministry of Health and departments of health if we are to achieve maximum result from our efforts.

Many people in this country do not pay attention to balanced diet which we all know is very important. Most of our people stick to our traditional food which is more of carbohydrates, such foods like rice, gari, yams, millet flour, and so on. These carbohydrates, Mr Chairman, do not really give protein, which is very essential in our food to make us healthy. Instead of people buying expensive clothing every month they should spend the extra money they have in providing milk, eggs, beans, green vegetables and so on for their family. That will help the growth of the people very much. We seem to pay more attention to expensive clothing and drinking and smoking and then probably gambling, spending some pounds on pools and the rest of it ; and pay less attention to the question of balanced diet. Then we are surprised when our children are weak or when they die of malnutrition.

Some people blame the Minister of Health for this. How can the Minister of Health continue to cure people, children suffering from malnutrition? If people are interested in their children they must not only reproduce children but they must also see that they feed them very well with milk and eggs and all the good things we are being told of by the medical people. It is not sufficient to feed a child with adult diet. This is what happens in most towns in this country. You give your child rice, gari or yams or *tuwo* and one or two slices of meat and then you expect him to grow strong and healthy. Well, that does not work.

I agree that most of us here have been brought up with these unbalanced diets but still we are healthy. I think it is wrong to judge the health standard of this country by the appearance of hon. Members. People may say that good food is costly. I know hon. Members and some senior service people can afford it. They should, therefore, set an example by paying attention to the cleanliness

of the compound and clean clothes, boiled and filtered water, and paying real attention to all these rules without saying that these are European foods. I think it is wrong to think that Europeans have one type of food quite different from what Africans have. After all, we are all human beings; we are entitled to the same type of good food, balanced diet, as the Europeans.

I am not going to bore you more on this. My suggestion will be to spend more money on better food for the family as good food is better for the health of the people, for the prosperity of Nigeria, and then spend less money on expensive clothing. We all know the saying that prevention is better than cure, but how many people really keep this simple rule?

On the question of international conferences, I am glad to tell hon. Members that we have taken an active part. I have myself made it my policy to personally lead whenever I have the time our delegations to the international conferences. I have led one to Geneva, one to India. One important thing hon. Members should know is that these international organisations like the World Health Organisation are not political bodies. We should therefore realise the importance of always going and taking part in discussions.

Social and health problems arising as a result of overpopulation will not be known in this country for a long time to come. The country is very big and so long as we have work and are interested in the up-bringing of our children we shall not have to fear. I shall, therefore, not speak to you about birth-control and planning of family. Here in Lagos, for example, some people make very useful planning and control of their families. I shall make pamphlets on successful family planning available to hon. Members when they are out. As you know, in some parts of the world people feel that it is not sufficient to reproduce indiscriminately. One has to reproduce in such a number that one does not reproduce what he can not cope with. And here in Lagos, hon. Members and some people in Lagos who are financially strong may practise polygamy, which is a very good thing, because if you can afford to feed three to four wives with

their children, and if you are financially strong to bring up these children, I think it is a very good thing (*Hear, hear*).

Polygamy, for example, can very much help in reducing to a certain extent the evil of prostitution. If a country over-produces females and if a State finds that it cannot give work to the females, if a man can marry three or four, I think we do avoid social evil in that.

The Chairman : Order. May I remind the hon. Minister that he has two more minutes.

The Minister of Health : Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I think I have more or less exhausted all the points I want to raise and I understand that hon. Members have very little to say on this Ministry. It is a straightforward Ministry and we have no difficult problems, and it has been whispered to me that the Question may be put.

An hon. Member : How do you know?

The Minister of Health : Well, I do not think you have anything to say again. We are doing very good service. The African members of my Ministry who have been placed as heads of units have been doing exceedingly well. I think that is a credit to this country. We have proved beyond doubt that Africans who have been placed on top posts in my Ministry have successfully carried out the duties assigned to them.

Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai East) : Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I have a few points to make on this Head but before I do so I would like to offer my words of congratulation to the Minister of Health. Really, in my own humble opinion, I believe that his Ministry is one of the best under this Government. So, I congratulate him, at least for the following points, if there are no reasons at all.

There has been a lot of expansion work in all the branches of his Ministry. That is really very encouraging. The other point is that there are many Maternities and Dispensaries being built at least to ease the congestion in the existing ones. Also, we have seen that a new hospital is being built for children. Added to this, there is a Mainland Hospital being built. I think these are things for which we should

[MR OBI]

congratulate the Minister of Health, but I would like to say that there is something which is wrong. It might not be to the knowledge of the Minister but I would like to take this opportunity to call his attention to it. That thing is serious and it is a great evil, which is in the establishment of the Administrative Division of this Ministry.

In this direction, Mr Chairman, I would like to say that I do not know whether the Minister is aware that there are quacks being employed in this Ministry who practise as licensed Medical Practitioners. If you are not aware, at least I call your... (*Interruptions*). I call your attention to the most recent publication in the papers of a certain quack who practised for months as a Doctor here in the Federal Territory of Lagos. I think that is too bad to be allowed to continue. Placing the lives of thousands of people in the hands of such people is most unsafe. This is one thing to which I want to draw the Minister's attention. I wonder if such people are ever called for interview before they are appointed, and I have been told that whenever they attend an interview their qualification is—"been to U.K."; there is no need to look into their credentials at all. The next thing is they take up an appointment. I do not think this is in the best interest of the country.

The other point is that under the heading "Hospital Services". I have a few remarks to make. I would like to say that inhuman treatment is given to patients in the General Hospital. For example, in the Children's Ward there is no attention paid to the children, no clothes, no mats, and the mothers of children who are sick have no accommodation. It is a different thing in the Regions; if a child is sick, the mother is admitted, is taken as having been admitted as well as the child, so that the mother has to stay close to the child in order to come to the child's aid at any time. But in the General Hospital here, the opposite is the case.

Also, Sir, I would like to make another point, that is that when people are sick and they go into the Hospital it takes about two to three days for them to be given cards to enable them to see the Medical Officer.

An hon. Member : In Lagos ?

Mr Obi : Yes, in Lagos. If you do not know, I am telling you. And it will take another three days for such people to be privileged to see the Medical Officer.

An hon. Member : It is a lie.

Mr Obi : Well, if you are not aware, these are reliable facts that I have gathered since my arrival. These are things that should be looked into.

I want to say, Sir, that the so-called Emergency Section of the General Hospital is not serving the needs of the people. At times people are brought there and when they die a natural death, the families of the dead find it difficult even to get the Medical Officer to sign the death warrant. They will be holding such people responsible as having kept the person for so long in home, when that is not the case. I agree that there are some Doctors and Nurses who are good to their patients, but there are a great number of them who care less about the lives of other people. I feel that this should be looked into.

I want to make one more point and that is on the Creek Hospital. This is regarded as the hospital for the Senior Service segments of the community. Sir, I would like to say that there should be no discrimination in that hospital. The doors should be thrown open to people who are in the Senior Service segment as well as those in the Junior Service segment of the community, because if you agree that health is wealth, it is only a healthy man who can aspire to become a Senior Service man. So, I feel that if we are to have equal rights there should be no question of Creek Hospital belonging to the higher ups and others to people of the lower segments.

I want to make a suggestion before I close, and that is that I would like to say that an independent Commission of inquiry should be appointed to go into the ways in which the Administrative Section of the Ministry is run, and those people who are found guilty of any offence—I say this because people who are not qualified have been employed to work as Medical Officers—should be brought to book.

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

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North): Mr Chairman, Sir, the Minister of Health.

The Chairman : Order. When I call an hon. Member, all Members wishing to speak must resume their seats.

Mr Ogbalu : Mr Chairman, Sir, the Minister of Health deserves a lot of congratulations for the manner in which his Ministry has been run, especially during the Independence Celebrations when almost all parts of Lagos were kept very clean and, in fact, the Minister's appearance alone shows (*Laughter*) . . . shows somebody who really practices health and not only having theoretical knowledge of it, but in practice. I have to call the attention of the House to it as a good example.

Well, I want to point out certain things. In the West African Council of Medical Research, there we find that the Federal Government contributes about 49.1 per cent. That is Nigeria's responsibility. But it is sad to note that no Nigerian is holding any responsible post there. It is true that this organisation is owned by the West African Governments formerly under British rule, and some which still, are, but I feel that qualified Nigerians ought to have been appointed to understudy some of these expatriate Doctors in that department.

It is also sad to note that there are no technologists throughout the whole organisation. We find five or six expatriate technologists but no Nigerians and the Nigerian Biologist on leave now in the United States of America was mainly attached to the Library Section sorting books, and the only Nigerian who is said to have any influence whatsoever in that department, holding a post as an A.E.O., is nearly a retired pensioner. So, in the absence of any responsible Nigerian in that department, it is difficult to see why that department cannot be run by Nigerians. At least Nigerians should contribute their own rightful quota in that important organisation.

Here again, in the Yellow Fever and Small-pox Vaccination Section you find that Nigerianization is at its lowest ebb and I appeal to the Minister to look into it.

Some of the Regional Governments have tried to control the peddling of drugs by raising the drug pedlars' fees. Some propose to raise it from five pounds to fifteen pounds and the drug pedlars are complaining both to the Regional Governments and the Federal Government and whilst they do not contend that it is a good thing for their drugs to be peddled without any control, potions of all kinds are being sold in the markets and all sorts of forbidding instruments are being used by almost everybody who has the soul to be a "Quack". But what people are saying is this, that control should not only be in respect to drug pedlars but also of the chemists. Some of these have got the licence to order drugs and poisons and so on, and they should also be controlled because there are those who make arrangements for drug pedlars to come and purchase them. These are bought and sold in the market so the Federal Government, while considering such applications from Regional Governments for approval for raising the drug pedlars' fees should make an effort to regulate the system. I know there is a regulation but it should be made in such a way that the regulations should be enforceable and not just a dead letter. That will help to reduce the amount of drugs and poisons which are being sold in the market and no Regional Government can on its own control the indiscriminate selling of drugs in our local markets.

Another point which I want to make is this. The disappearance of drugs from hospitals. It is an open secret that drugs disappear from hospitals and efforts should be made to control the disappearance of drugs from hospitals. I am talking with a sense of responsibility and authenticity. (*Interruption*).

An hon. Member : You mean they steal the drugs ?

Mr Ogbalu : Well, not *steal* them, if you like. But the point is *this*. You have not seen a Doctor who wept. Why was he weeping? He wept because patients were suffering from diabetes and a little bit of glucose could have cured them and he looked round and there was no glucose, but in the hospital during that time plenty of glucose was regularly being sent in. So if the drug was stolen by ghosts or destroyed by inhuman means, that is open to conjecture.

[MR OGBALU]

Another important point which I want to point out is that Ministers are responsible for the policy of that department and not the actual administration of day-to-day duties in the department, so if Civil Servants should feel that the credit in their department will go to the Minister and therefore they should hold out their hands and say, "Oh, if the Ministry crumbles down it is the responsibility of the Minister", they will be completely misinformed. No Minister will take the responsibility of what Civil Servants ought to do and I think that this House ought to make it actually understood by the nation that Civil Servants are meant to implement the decisions and policies arrived at in the Executive Council or directly given by their Minister.

Another point which I want to make, Sir, is the question of scholarships for medical students. On account of the fact that many Nigerians are willing to go abroad, they attach themselves either to Towns Unions or through other Unions or through cultural organisations in order to go abroad to study medicine. The Federal Government has limited this enthusiasm in order to help medical students. Well, if that is the case I think it is still right that the Federal Government should continue to offer more scholarships for Nigerian students who have the knack and who have the desire to study medicine, to go abroad or to go even to our own Universities in order to study medicine because of the great population in this country.

And, here again, one other point I want to point out in this direction is this. That if a Government scholar has qualified as a Doctor and he wishes to study, say, the D.P.H. or some of the other extra qualifications, I think that if he applies to the Federal Government and if the Federal Government is satisfied that he really desires extra assistance, that such a student should be assisted to finish up before coming home. It will be fruitless for him to come back to Nigeria and then, after practising for some time, go back to the United Kingdom to do his D.P.H. or allied qualifications.

Another point which I really want to make is about the University College Teaching Hospital at Ibadan. You may call it an allegation, but, whatever it is, Nigerian trained

Doctors are isolated from the United Kingdom trained Doctors in the sense that Nigerian trained Doctors—Doctors trained at Ibadan—are given special room and those from the United Kingdom special quarters; those from the United Kingdom have their own cars and those who are trained in Nigeria have none. I think such discrimination is tantamount to setting up an inferiority complex which we want to wipe out in this country. They should be regarded as equal. Whether they are trained in the United Kingdom or in Jerusalem or in Soviet Russia or in Nigeria, as long as they have similar qualifications, there should be no discrimination between the various bodies in that Department.

An hon. Member : Provided they are trained in Medical Science.

Mr Ogbalu : Yes, provided they are trained in Medical Science and they are qualified as Doctors. I am speaking with an element of certainty; there is no doubt about it.

Well, I have to point out too that the question of Doctors' practice at home is a very serious one in this country. That is, whether Doctors should be allowed private practice while they are under Civil Service employment. I know it is a very difficult question really, but I think that if the Federal Government should consider the salaries which are paid to Doctors and see whether an increase or an adjustment would make them to restrain from diverting some of the duties which they ought to do in hospitals to their houses in the way of private practice that will be a very important point, because without that they probably will continue to complain over inadequate attention in the hospitals, and that is not very good in an advancing economy like ours.

Another important point is this, Sir, that in the Federal Territory of Lagos there should be medical men who would be able to go round the schools in order to see young boys and young girls and to find out what form of ailment they have which their parents might not have noticed and thereby advise as to what medicine should be given to them. Not only will this shorten the time which students and children have to spend in the hospital waiting for Doctors to attend to them, but it will help to increase our medical services in this country, and I think that social service

in the form of free medical service for school children should be considered as a foremost proposition by the Federal Government.

I have to congratulate the Minister of Health for establishing the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Laboratory for which £900 have been voted for equipment purposes in order to provide, or cater for, the supply of sterile products, but I think that this £900 is certainly not enough. We want more production of vaccines, whether of small-pox or yellow fever or allied diseases, and there again, I have to congratulate the Department—in fact, no amount of congratulations will be sufficient—for the amount of vaccine which they manufactured and sent to the Congo under the auspices of the United Nations, because when that country was faced with epidemic and other woeful diseases the Federal Government rose up to the occasion and supplied enormous quantities of vaccine to that country and that is a credit to Nigeria, a credit to the Minister and a credit to his Ministry. Therefore, I am asking that next time the £900 should be raised in order to make sure that vaccines are manufactured enough for incidental diseases like meningitis in the North and many other things like that.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

M. Ali Gwarzo (Gwarzo West): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the proposal under this Head. And in doing so, I would like to congratulate the Minister for the able way in which he has been conducting the duties of his Ministry. I would also like to congratulate our able Prime Minister for leading the Government since Independence. His excellent performances both at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference and the United Nations Organisation have been very gratifying.

Mr Chairman, we can understand why the Action Group Members in this House are worried.

The Chairman : The hon. Member is not adequately heard. Will he please raise his voice.

M. Ali Gwarzo : Mr Chairman, Sir, I was saying that the Action Group Members in the House have been critical of the Prime Minister

on foreign affairs. Well, we can understand their reason for this. They have tried their best to create confusion in this country and their attitude against the activities of the Government is quite understandable.

An hon. Member : On a point of order. Mr Chairman, we are on Health and the hon. Gentleman is speaking about the Action Group. (*Applause*).

M. Ali Gwarzo : Mr Chairman, Sir, I know that we are debating now the expenditure under the Ministry of Health. Well the Minister of Health is under the leadership of the Prime Minister. The Action Groupers are trying to—(*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order, order. I do hope that the hon. Member realises we are now on the vote for the Ministry of Health and he should depart from his attack on the Action Group.

M. Ali Gwarzo : Mr Chairman, I have been trying to explain the success of the Government in spite of the destructive activities of the Opposition Members. The Government has grown from strength to strength, but—

The Chairman : Order, order. What I am saying is that the Action Group is not a disease. (*Applause*).

M. Ali Gwarzo : Mr Chairman, Sir, referring to health matters. I would like to appeal to the Minister of Health to pay more attention to the disease which are prevalent in the Northern Region. (*Hear, hear*). For instance, cerebro-spinal meningitis has been ravaging the country for a very long time. We should like the Ministry to look into this. And there is the question of yaws and smallpox, which I would like the Government to eradicate and the Minister should make more efforts to help in eradicating mosquitoes and tse-tse flies which cause dangerous diseases in the Northern Region.

With these words, Sir, I beg to support.

The Chairman : Chief R. A. Orok.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (Mr M. Amechi) : On a point of explanation. I want to say, quite clearly, Sir, that coming from the Eastern Region, the hon. Gentleman is not a Chief recognised by law.

[DR EZERA]

and thus produce doctors *en masse* with emphasis on our local needs. You have to go to the Provinces. I come from the rural area myself. If you look around you find children with big tommyes, they are all suffering from either one type of disease or the other. There are no doctors, in fact, not even enough nurses to look after them. I think, Sir, the Minister can do it. It is a gigantic task I admit particularly in this Federal territory, it is a most shameful thing that the Ministry of Health should be so unhealthy. I beg to support.

L. Alhaji Daura (Maska): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the expenditure under this Head. In so doing, I would like to make a few suggestions to the Government so that the country may benefit and so that the country may benefit by the promotion of the general health of the Public. The suggestions I would like to make are these :

Firstly, let the Government take preventive measures and try its best to annihilate the deadly diseases from the country. Such diseases are meningitis, smallpox, chicken pox and so on. Let the Government which now seems to confine her activities to the capital territory alone, extend these services to the more rural areas and in so doing—

An hon. Member : What of your Regional Government ?

L. Alhaji Daura : And in so doing should build more hospitals in the rural areas and provide medical facilities to the people living in these areas. Let the Government in conjunction with the Regional Governments supply good drinking water to the people living in the rural areas. Bad water is the source of many diseases like dysentery, guinea worm and similar diseases.

I suggest, Mr Chairman, to press on with the measures to eradicate diseases and to do comprehensive work in the field of propaganda because the public learn more by demonstration than by just reading papers. A great deal more remains to be accomplished in the fields of treatment and prevention of diseases like leprosy, which is very common in West Africa. Let the Government train more of her sons in the medical profession who will do valuable work to the country. A country, Mr Chairman, infested with the diseases, means a country

infested with poverty and sorrows and we do not like Nigeria to be so. Let the Government try to rid the country of such diseases.

I would also make a suggestion ; let the Government build a mental hospital in this country because there are many cases of insanity in this country.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not want to dwell upon the points already covered by the previous speakers, particularly, Dr Ezera, but on looking through the Estimates I find that one of the reasons why we are short of doctors in the country to-day may be that doctors, particularly those of them who come under the category of specialists, are being under-paid. I have looked through the Estimates and I see that even senior specialists earn only £2,500.

I am not one of those who advocate the payment of fabulous salaries especially now that my hon. Friend, Chief Okotie-Eboh, is very keen, with his axe, on the highly paid people. But I feel that it is ridiculous to find that a specialist, who might have spent perhaps seven years to get qualified and perhaps five years' practice and a further two years to qualify as a specialist, should be paid £2,500 *per annum* which works out at £208-16s-8d a month and just £7 a day.

Well, Mr Chairman, Sir, doctors are professionals and the type of responsibility entrusted to doctors is very important. We have in the structure of our Government to-day Administrative Officers who perhaps, because they were lucky to have acquired experience by working under some high officials who liked them, are promoted to the post of Administrative Officers Class I, Class II and so on and so forth, and within a period of ten years they earn a salary of £2,940 per annum—Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries or whatever you like to call them—they earn £2,940, whereas a doctor who has had to go through the mills in the University for about seven years, works for another five years and then goes again for further studies, has to rely on £2,500 which works out at £7 per day.

No wonder, Sir, that we have in Lagos to-day doctors (I do not say this to discourage them) being more of businessmen than medical practitioners. You find them in all kinds of

businesses, they are in the cattle trade, they are big property dealers and perhaps they are my colleagues in insurance business, working as insurance brokers. The result of such a situation is that these doctors find it difficult to concentrate their attention upon their professions and even most of them find it very difficult to read, they find it difficult to know which new practices in medicine have been discovered; they find it difficult to know which type of new instruments to be used and who suffers; and we are the people who suffer for this reason. It is we who suffer; not Ministers who can afford to fly their children and their wives to the United Kingdom for treatment.

I would respectfully call upon the Minister of Health to look into this. I am not saying this merely because I feel that I should criticise his department, but I am saying it because I think it is grossly unfair, to pay specialists and medical officers with long years of experience this paltry sum of money considering what obtains in this country to-day. That is one of the reasons why most of them spend far more of their time on private patients.

I would prefer quite frankly to have a doctor, even a government doctor, to treat me, or my wife or my children privately, because I know I will get the best for my money. This is a serious situation which must be looked into very seriously by the Minister. I know he is a broad-minded man. I am not bribing him, he cannot employ me. I think he belongs to the type of progressive Ministers that we want in this country. (*Hear, hear*). He is not one of the dead weights we have in the Cabinet.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Prince T. A. Lamuye): On point of order, Sir, is this the way to speak to the Ministers (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order, order, it is a good thing that there is a Chairman here.

Chief Akin-Olugbade: Thank you Mr Chairman, Sir, one other point I would like to touch upon is the question of recruitment of doctors. As it was pointed out in the able speech of Dr Ezera, it has been our habit to look up to the United Kingdom for doctors, either Nigerians trained in the United Kingdom or expatriates who might have attended United Kingdom Universities. I think the Minister himself should be aware that lately some Nigerians who qualified in the United States and in Western Germany came out here to

practise. Unfortunately most of the Nigerians who qualified in the United States and came out here without sufficient capital outlay to start their own nursing homes or hospitals had to seek employment under the Government. However, conditions have been made so intolerable for them that practically everyone of them who could afford to go back to the United States or to Western Germany left us; they have gone back.

Some of them after getting to the top of their examinations do some practical work in the United States and in Germany, and they know what they get for their services even though they may be precluded from engaging in private practice. But when they come home, because of the typical old colonial red tape, they are asked, in spite of their experience, to start from scratch and earn £624 per annum. They come back at four o'clock in the morning and go back at 2 o'clock and so forth and so on.

I think the hon. the Minister would be doing this country a world of good if he will go into their conditions of service. After all we have American Missionaries who are doctors, who are practising in this country. We have German doctors right down at Surulere—a German lady doctor treating people in the Roman Catholic Hospital. We have so many of them who are qualified. If it is not possible for the Minister to get doctors from the United Kingdom, for the sake of this country, for the sake of our health, he should look beyond the confines of the United Kingdom. If there is any red tape he should cut it, he should remove it; (*Interruption*) and I will respectfully call upon him again (*interruption*). He went on tour of some countries recently, he saw a lot and made a report and when I read it I was happy but I think he should have included in that report his desire to go back and recruit doctors from the continent of Europe. There are so many good doctors there and most of the diseases which we have here are not uncommon in Europe and not uncommon in America.

An hon. Member: What about nationalising the Department?

Chief Akin-Olugbade: I have no objection to that, the Medical Department could be nationalised and it will be to the good of everybody.

Mr Chairman, well on these two points, I think the Minister will not, like some other colleagues of his, allow the two points I have

[CHIEF AKIN-OLUGBADE]

raised here to be pigeon-holed because I know he cannot go back to the office and begin to write everything himself. He should see to it that the points we raise here are looked into and looked into carefully and when he was giving his figures he said that the amount he got, that is, six hundred and something thousand was the highest that could be given to him. We should impress it on our hon. the Minister of Finance that the health of this country is of paramount importance to us (*interruption*). Before the British advent, our people were heavy and robust that is why they came to carry millions of them from this part of the world to the United States, to the sugar-cane plantation in the West Indies. If they had looked as haggard as emaciated and disease-ridden as we find most of our people to-day, they would not come here. They found the Irish there, they have got from other places but they perished in the hot climate in the West Indies and in the United States and that is why they came to take our people here. We want the health of our people to be improved, we want to regain the stature which we had before we were made slaves on the Railway Line, slaves on roads, slaves on our farm earning a little less than subsistence level.

Mr P. O. Eleke (Okigwi South East): Mr Chairman, Sir, in contributing to the debate under this Head "Ministry of Health", I wish to raise an important issue which I think is very, very vital to the welfare of the women of Lagos or at least a section of Lagos. The thing is this, Sir, Lagos women who leave their homes at 5 a.m. to attend antenatal clinic at Denton Street, Ebute Metta are forced to line up and stand in a queue for hours. Another aspect of the whole show, Sir, is that they are asked to be naked before weighing and where this weighing is done is not more than an open space and people could easily see them from the street. I want the Minister to investigate this allegation and if this allegation is true, deal with the offender accordingly. We call for a square deal for our women-folk and surely we cannot be proud of this sort of thing in Lagos.

The Minister of Health: Mr Chairman, Sir, I am not going to attempt to refer to the many valuable questions which Members have raised. I am very grateful to all the Members. The importance of having a Par-

liament is that one hears so many ideas which one has not known or thought of before. The hon. Dr Ezera raised the question of the Ashby Report in relation to the Ministry of Health. In my speech I said we are considering the Ashby Report's recommendations which we think are very good indeed. We shall do something about it.

About employing doctors in Germany or any other parts of the World is also something which I myself think very good and we shall certainly not stop from England alone; we believe that it is now high time we tried doctors and specialists from other parts of the World, so that we will see the quality of other people.

Production of Medical Officers from the University College Hospital, the number is very low—I agree about 13—but I have said in my statement that it will be increased. We cannot step up the figure over night but there are problems of not getting teachers and so on. I can assure hon. Members that the intention is to increase the production of doctors. (*Hear, hear!*)

Congestions in the General Hospital we are very aware of, and when the improvement costing £300,000 is carried out, there will be more space and we shall have more doctors and that will reduce the congestion. There are so many points, Mr Chairman, noted—about 26. I know hon. Members have given suggestions but I think I would just promise them that I shall look into all the points raised. They should rest assured that we think very highly of their opinions and we will try to implement as many of their points as possible.

Question put and agreed to.

£3,169,690 for Head 40—Ministry of Health—agreed to.

HEAD 46—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Question proposed, That £2,154,750 for Head 46—Ministry of Information stand part of the schedule.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Chairman, I beg to move to include the following additional sum and I hereby signify the Governor-General's recommendation to so move. Under Sub-head 72 Production of special films £20,000. I beg to move.

Amendment proposed .

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East): Really, Mr Chairman, really we must ask the Minister of Finance—how can we invite the House to approve a proposal involving £20,000 without reason?

Mr Chairman, this is the Parliament of this nation where a body of responsible persons, at least, are speaking from this side of the House.

I never heard anything so outrageous, in any of the two or three Parliaments which I have visited in this country, not to mention those outside, as the Minister of Finance inviting the House to approve a proposal involving £20,000 without any explanation of any kind. I have an inkling myself, Sir, of what this proposal is connected with. I have heard, Sir, that there is a proposal to invite a Mr Connor, who is a film actor somewhere in England or the States to produce films for this Government at considerable expense.

I recall that on the eve of the independence celebrations, the Minister of Information gave this House an undertaking that any films to be produced in connection with the celebrations would be produced by the Film Unit of his Ministry and that he did not propose to invite any persons outside this country to produce films for them.

It is unfortunate that that undertaking was broken; and if the Minister did in fact invite outsiders how come at great expense? It is my information that the Film Unit in his Department gave every assurance that they could produce these films cheaper than eventually was proposed. In the proposal before us now, it is my information that the Film Unit of the Department is prepared to produce this film at almost half the cost now proposed here; and yet the Minister, without offering any reasons at all, wants us to pass this amount. I think that it is bad enough, and is not treating Parliament with sufficient respect, and therefore, Sir, I beg to oppose.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I can understand the worries of my hon. Friend because he has already had some inkling of rumours which have no foundations whatsoever, and so he anticipated the reason for this financial provision. Sir, at least, I am happy too, that my hon. Friends this time would like to hear me speak on other Minister's responsibilities, on a matter affecting other Ministers.

Quite frankly, Sir, my duty here is to move for the approval of the financial provision that I have effected. I do not propose to anticipate what my hon. Friend, the Minister of Information is going to say. Surely, my hon. Friend, the Minister of Information is going to inform the House completely of the fact surrounding the shooting of this film. As a matter of fact, if my hon. Friends on the other Side, (and I say it now in relation to the microscopic element in front of us; not the gentlemen behind) Sir, if they are not prepared to vote for it, and they oppose it, I am sure that the whole of this side and that side, who understand what I am talking about, will vote for it. Sir, I beg to oppose the opposition of my hon. Friend.

Question, That £20,000 for Sub-head 72, Production of Special Films, stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

Question proposed, That an increased sum of £2,174,750 for Head 46—Ministry of Information—stand part of the Schedule.

The Minister of Information (Hon. T. O. S. Benson): Mr Chairman, Sir, during the last twelve months many historic events have taken place and it has become obvious that the present organisation of the Information Division of my Ministry as it now stands is inadequate to meet the needs of independent Nigeria, particularly as regards the projection of Nigeria in the outside world. A complete re-organization of the Division is in hand and this will require an increase in the provision for this sub-head. Members will appreciate that we are breaking new ground and that a great deal of careful thought and study has to go into this re-organization if we are to achieve satisfactory results.

The past year has been one of the busiest in the history of the Information Division. In addition to the routine work in the coverage of the affairs of the Federal Government—press releases, photographs, Ministerial tours, liaison with the Press, preparation and circulation of news bulletins for overseas use, issue and control of advertising for the Government—the Division was closely involved with the arrangements for the independence celebrations, the inauguration of the first Nigerian Governor-General, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, the visits of such distinguished visitors as President Tubman of Liberia, President Senghor of

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Senegal, *et cetera*, the numerous international conferences held in Lagos since the 1st October, the coverage of many Nigerian delegations, economic and political, which mark Nigeria's impact in the international conferences held in Lagos since the 1st October, the coverage of many Nigerian delegations, economic and political, which mark Nigeria's impact in the international field as an independent and sovereign Nation.

Examples of such delegations are the one led by our Prime Minister to New York for the admission of Nigeria as the 99th member of the United Nations Organization and the first attendance of the Prime Minister of this Federation at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference. The Prime Minister's performance, at both the United Nations and the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, was outstanding and was a credit to Nigeria. I might also say, Mr Chairman, that I myself went as a member of most of these delegations and did my humble best to spread the gospel about Nigeria in these countries.

The Information Division produced more than forty publications during the year. Copies of these were, I believe, sent to hon. Members at the time they came off the Press. In addition, publications from other sources, covering economic, social, religious, and general aspects of Nigeria were assembled and presented to visiting journalists and V.I.P. guests at independence. In all, some fifty publications covering every aspect of Nigeria's development were presented to the 300 journalists, broadcasters, photographers and film personnel covering these great events, and over 1,000 sets of the same publications were presented to distinguished visitors. Large quantities were made available to schools and the general public, including the publications *Nigeria 1960*, *Nigeria in Pictures*, and sets of postcards. The total number of copies produced of all these publications was approximately 1½ million.

I can confidently claim that Nigeria made a tremendous impact on the outside world and that my Ministry made the most of the opportunity afforded by our assumption of independence. A direct result of this effort has been the extraordinary growth in the overseas press references to Nigeria in recent months. The average number of press cutting has jumped

from 2-3 thousand to 4-5 thousand since the 1st October. This is some evidence that Nigeria is receiving its due share of publicity abroad.

I may perhaps mention here that I was privileged, on behalf of the Prime Minister, to present sets of these publications to President Eisenhower, Mr Krushchev, Mr Nehru, Mr Macmillan and Mr Hammarskjöld, and other important people during the tours of which I have spoken. During independence the Division took over the Mainland Hotel for a Press Hotel and for three weeks was responsible for 300 accredited correspondents, representing the world Press, Radio, Television *et cetera*. The countries represented included Russia, U.S.A., Israel, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Japan, India, U.A.R., Ghana, Sierra Leone, and many others.

This year has seen a great increase in the number of journalists and other visitors stopping over in Nigeria either as part of a tour of Africa or as covering a specific assignment to prepare background material on Nigeria for general use. At times correspondents have appeared at the rate of one or two per day. Good Public Relations requires that time be given to brief them on the overall picture of Nigeria, to assist them where possible with transportation, to make hotel reservations, arrangements for tours of the country, and for interviews with Government, and sometimes commercial personnel. The success with which this part of the Information Division's work is carried out is shown in the increased number of stories about Nigeria in the overseas Press and in the fact that many visitors acknowledge that they have been advised to contact officers of the Division for the facts and detailed information that they require.

In addition to these personal contacts and services, there is a constantly expanding volume of requests for information about Nigeria from people overseas, including school children and Nigerian students in foreign Universities who frequently apply for factual information about this country. Interest in the possibilities of tourism and commercial prospects also pass to the Division in this way. The opening of Embassies and Overseas posts has called for the build up of supplies of printed information and photographs about Nigeria to be available in these offices.

Members will recall that during the Independence celebrations the Film Unit of my Ministry was able to produce daily news films of the events which appeared on the screens of local cinemas, while the special prestige film "This is Nigeria" has been a tremendous success in projecting our country throughout the world. (*Hear, hear*). The demand for this film is such that I understand that a further 70 copies have recently been ordered to meet new requests from overseas. Arrangements have been completed to make another such prestige film at an early date.

I also propose that films made by the Federal Film Unit should be shown all over Nigeria by a fleet of 30 Mobile Cinema Vans. I am making arrangements to engage a very experienced official either from Canada, the United States of America, Germany, or Britain to prepare the young Nigerian staff in the Film Unit for the eventual take-over of the Unit. The demand for photographs has reached new peaks and during the last year no less than 24,000 enlargements were prepared by the Photographic Section of the Division for use at home and abroad. (*Applause*).

No doubt members have seen along the streets and in public buildings vivid posters telling mothers how to care for their children or warning people against wasting water. A large variety of these posters have been produced by the Graphic Arts Section of the Information Division. In addition, this Section prepares hundreds of engravings every month for printing not only by the Federal Government, but also the Regional Governments, Statutory Corporations and other Organisations.

The Commercial Publications Section which was taken over by my Ministry during the year, produces the *Handbook of Commerce and Industry* and the *Quarterly Trade Journal*, both of which play a major role in our efforts to place the economic facts about this country at the disposal of existing and potential investors.

The Printing Division of my Ministry has made some notable progress in the quality of its productions and has produced material of the highest standards, equivalent to that produced by the most advanced countries in the world—for example, the *Nigeria Magazine* Independence issue which has been universally acclaimed as a splendid example of

the new standards which have been achieved by the Government Press. The new Press at Apapa has become part of the Nigerian National Press Limited, a company which has been set up to produce daily and weekly newspapers and to print high quality material on a commercial basis.

The *Nigeria Magazine* has made great progress, both as regards quality of the production and as regards circulation. About 35,000 copies of the Independence edition were printed and demands for this edition are still coming in from all over the world. (*Hear, hear*). The circulation of the normal quarterly edition has doubled within the last year.

As members are aware, since Independence a large number of International Conferences have been held in Lagos, notably those of the International Labour Organization, the International Commission of Jurists and the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa. It has been necessary to set up a small Unit called a Conference Visitor's Unit to administer this type of conference. Forty cars and ten light buses left over from the Independence celebrations fleet have been allocated to the Unit to provide the necessary transport.

Members will have seen in the papers reports and heard on the radio of the signing of the contract for the supply of equipment for the Federal Television Service and the External Broadcasting Service. The plan for the Television Service includes a full installation including studios in Lagos and a repeater station in Ibadan. Both these stations will have a range of approximately 30 miles. At a later stage this service will be extended to the other Regional capitals. I hope that it will be possible for the Governments of the other Regions to co-operate in some way in a joint television project.

I have invited the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation to provide the External Broadcasting Service. The equipment to be supplied by the Radio Corporation of America will enable this service to be heard all over the world (*Applause*). Initially the broadcasts will be made in English, French and Arabic, but other languages will be added as time goes on. Broadcasts on the External Service will of course need to be planned in close co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations. I have been aware for some time that the Nigerian Broadcasting Corpora-

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tion programmes were not being received in various parts of the country. I have made arrangements to purchase a 100 kilowatt short-wave transmitter for internal use by the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation. I have every hope that when this new transmitter has been installed, N.B.C. programmes will be clearly heard all over Nigeria and even in adjoining countries.

Mr Chairman, Sir, much has been accomplished by my Ministry in the last year and much remains to be done. We are not complacent and I have mentioned my intention to reorganize and expand our Information Services. I have every hope that when this reorganization has been completed, there will be little or no occasion for the kind of criticisms which have been levelled at my Ministry in recent months. We have attempted to create since last October in the mind of the world an image of Nigeria as a nation of confident people with competent leaders, quietly and without unnecessary fuss building a great nation and taking our rightful place in the leadership of Africa. (*Loud Applause*).

Mr B. N. Ukaegbu (Owerri South East): Mr Chairman, Sir, in contributing to the debate on this head, I want to say that the Ministry of Information happens to be one of those Ministries which are taken to be ripe, but it is obvious, Sir, that the potentiality of the Ministry of Information effectively handled has not been realised in this country at all. It is with respect, Sir, that I say that the Ministry of Information—the Federal Ministry of Information has got a very great opportunity to educate the masses of this country about the activities of Government—of the Federal Government—and make the impact of the Federal Government felt in every nook and corner of this country, but it does not appear that this opportunity has been taken. We are a new country and the people have many things to learn. Just recently, Sir, a complaint was raised on the Floor of this House that people do not pay due respect to the National Anthem when it is being played. It did not mean that people do not like to respect Nigeria, but it is a sort of Nemesis arising from our performance during the era of colonialism. We do not like to pay respect to a foreign National Anthem. I mean when we were at school when it was

being played, some of us usually sang another song.

The Deputy Chairman: Will the hon. Gentleman be more specific in raising the point he is catching at. The National Anthem is not a part of the Ministry of Information.

Mr Ukaegbu: I was only going to say that if the Ministry of Information has taken advantage and publicised the fact about our National Anthem all over Nigeria, people should have paid it the respect it desires. But that was only one example, Sir. Many things have taken place in Nigeria. The Federal Ministers have done a lot of things for the upliftment of the country and of the people in the fields of economy and other social services, but these things have not been brought home to the people in the nooks and corners of Nigeria with the result that when you go into the Regions, only the Regional Governments are known.

The Federal Government is spending £52 million this year. They are spending it for the benefit of Nigerians but when you go to Owerri or you go to Maiduguru or somewhere else, the people do not know anything about the Federal Government, they even do not know who are the Federal Ministers. They only know their Regional Ministers and that does not augur well for national unity at all. So that, Sir, I do not want to criticize anyone but what I want to say is that an imaginative handling of the opportunity given to the Ministry of Information in publicising the affairs of the Government will pay very good dividends.

Now, Sir, I am not going to waste the time of the House. I will just give my remarks on the proposals to the Federal television service in Nigeria. One point I want to make there, Sir, is that if the Federal Government is prepared to operate the television network covering the whole country and therefore telling the country what they can do, they have our support; let them go ahead, but if they want to duplicate the service already rendered in Ibadan and Agege and any other parts by the Western Government, let them fold their hands and wait till they are prepared to go ahead.

In the Estimates here, we have only £50,000 for establishing the television service and I think this is too small. The Eastern Regional

Government has started a television network around Enugu and it intends to extend it to Aba and Port Harcourt; the Northern Regional Government is also starting its own television network in Kaduna and Kano and so on. Therefore, I cannot see the point of the Federal Government voting only £50,000 to start its own television network. It would only come to the point the Prime Minister was making this morning when he said that it is shameful for us to compare ourselves with Ghana. There is a great temptation for one to say that the Federal Government is only trying to say that, well if we do not start our own television service, the Eastern Regional Government are doing better, the Western Regional Government are doing better and they start in a very small way. They should come in a big way.

They have got the money and certainly if a large country like America is able to bring TV news all over the country, I see no reason why the Federal Government cannot instal a television network covering the whole of Nigeria, and in fact they can do it and they should do it. They do not have my support for voting only £50,000 for this project but they will have it if they voted say for £½ million to cover all over the country.

Another point, Sir, I want to touch is about external broadcasting. I also see in the Estimates £50,000 for external broadcasting. With due respect I would say that that is almost shameful. We have a foreign policy of non-alignment but somebody says it must be active non-alignment; in other words, we must be prepared to propagate the superiority of our ideas all over the world and we cannot do this of non-alignment; in other words, we must be prepared to propagate the superiority of our ideas all over the world and we cannot do this unless we have an active and strong external broadcasting system. In fact, all parts of the world will not know that Nigeria has arrived as a nation unless she is able to make the voice of Nigeria head in all parts of the world.

In the evenings in Owerri, I can tune short-wave and I hear the voice of America very clearly and hear more clearly than I hear the voice of Radio Nigeria from Lagos. You must see that that is a very shameful thing. It is impossible for us to send an army to South Africa or to arrest Dr Verwoerd or propagate our ideas about the operative Government of South Africa or about the so many

things happening in Central Africa, we cannot go physically to South Africa or Central Africa and do these things but if the voice of Nigeria was very effective, we could educate South Africans themselves to rise against their Government and with South Africa outside the Commonwealth I do not think that anything will stop us from carrying our propaganda campaign to the South Africans themselves. And can we do this without a very powerful external broadcasting systems? Therefore, I recommend to the Government to think again about what they propose to do with the television system and about the powerful external broadcasting system.

Another point one would like to make about proposed external broadcasting system is about the quality of the staff who read news and other programmes in Radio Nigeria. You hear rough voices and words mumbled and you hear a language which is anything but English being uttered into the world as coming from Nigeria. I realise that some are good but the majority are bad. The majority are bad. Not that they have not the will to work but certainly have not got the equipment. These people are paid very well: I do not see the reason why really educated young Nigerians trained in phonetics and modern languages should not be employed to read the news. So, I think that should be looked into.

Another point, Sir, is about the Federal Film Unit. Each morning and afternoon when we are passing along Ikoyi Road, we see a big building with the writing 'Federal Film Unit' and one wonders if that building and the staff and equipment inside it are actually serving any useful purpose. About two or three years ago, it was promised that the Government was going to encourage the establishment of the film industry in Nigeria...but up till now, Sir, this does not seem to have been done. I know that films are highly technical things, and that you cannot establish an efficient organisation locally overnight. I realise the difficulties of the Ministry but all the same it is time a bold start was made.

Every evening, people spend hundred of pounds watching Indian films all over the country. I say, Sir, that Nigeria is not being projected sufficiently. I think that the Minister of Information should take cognisance of this, and put his foot down firmly, and see to it that a local film industry is started as soon as possible. I know he can do it, and with this,

[MR UKAEGBU]

I may say that the list has been exhausted, but in conclusion, I would refer to the fact that an imaginative Ministry of Information, a Minister of Information ready to give his utmost to the projection of the Nigerian personality here and outside, can do wonderful things for the Government.

The Deputy Chairman : May I please remind the hon. Member that the more people insist on talking for 30 minutes, the more difficult it is for the Chairman to satisfy the eagerness of many Members who want to speak.

Mr Ukaegbu : I will wind up now, Sir, and say that I have seen in the Estimates a sum of £2,000 for Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information. And if my friends will not hold me tight I will say that I oppose the expenditure of £2,000 for a Parliamentary Secretary who does no work. I know what I am saying. There is a Parliamentary Secretary, a young man full of ideas, active, imaginative, and so on and so forth, but he has no work at all to do, no work is given to him and I am not going to refer to other Parliamentary Secretaries.....

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (Mr M. Amechi) : Sir, I want to declare that it is absolutely incorrect to say that the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Information has not sufficient work to do. There is a cordial allocation of responsibility and duties in the Ministry, and we are working happily.

Mr Ukaegbu : I accept the explanation, but all the same I want to say that the work that is being doled out to our Parliamentary Secretaries is not worth what I, in my own opinion, would be prepared to pay £800 for. These young men, and in particular the young man in the Ministry of Information, are full of energy, of ideas and imagination, but no work is given them to do. They see no files, the officials do not know them, they can go for months and nobody knows that they are away. You will not be surprised, Sir, if someone comes with a Motion to abolish the post of Parliamentary Secretary in this Government. I should say, Sir, that if the Minister of Information, and other Ministers in the Government, want to keep Parliamentary Secretaries, they must either give them a job that they can do,

give them sufficient responsibility, or if they do not know the work, let the authorities bring an expert from Westminster to tell them what to do, so that these Parliamentaries may do the work commensurate with the salaries they are paid.

Mr A. E. Effiong-Spatts (Calabar) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I have got very little comments to make. In spite of its laudable plans, I am also delighted to know and to hear that there will be an expansion in the Ministry of Information. As a matter of fact, we feel proud that if Nigeria is projected in that way....

Several hon. Members : Louder please, louder please !

The Chairman : Order, order. If we will have less interruptions from my left, I think hon. Effiong-Spatts will be more audible.

Mr Efiang-Spatts : Thank you, Mr Chairman. As I said before, we have had laudable plans and I think there will be very good expansion in this connection, particularly in the Ministry of Information ; but I have to mention this and I hope I am not digressing from the point. I must say that the announcement of those who are responsible for the announcement in this Ministry—I know that the Minister does not know anything about the selection of news and also that money makes a rascal to look like a gentleman at times—must be impartial. In this connection there have been so many complaints and I have been one of those persons who are complaining that when we give out certain things to be announced, it appears that this Ministry—I do not say the Minister—makes a choice, or feels that certain people should be conferred a favour on and other persons should not.

So, with this expansion, I say that the Minister should be careful, and he should be tactful to go very carefully into his Ministry in order to see that there are no discriminations in announcements. I do not say that any nasty things should be announced, but it appears that there is a priority of favour which should not be the case at all. Certain parties should not take over the whole of that place and so deny other parties or the public the opportunity of making announcements in that place. I know exactly what has been going on and I want to say to the Ministe

concerned that he should look very closely into all the articles, let him see for himself what news is going to be announced and why others have been delayed or even described as washout news. In that connection, I think I have finished with that line, and I think the Minister will be very much obliged to see to it himself. I went some time ago to complain to the Minister and he said I should reduce my complaints into writing, but I think it is not wise to be bringing to book any of the civil servants because of these anomalies, but I think the Minister and the other Members in this House understand what I am saying.

The next point, Sir, is what we call antiquity. When I talk of antiquity, I am referring to the ancient days. As a matter of fact, if we look into the history of Eastern Nigeria, or when we listen to announcements, we hear certain things called the three main languages of Nigeria. I do not quarrel with the three main languages in Nigeria as such, but I have to say that about the year 1783 when we started with the British people, and when our people were occupying the whole of Ogoja, and the Efik-speaking people were also to be found in some parts of the River Province, and part of Arochuku in Iboland, you will see that the Efik-speaking elements put together constituted about half of the population of Eastern Nigeria; now, for our language to be deleted entirely, and for certain languages to be referred to as the three main languages of Nigeria, beats my imagination. I am not quarrelling with the three main languages as such but I think there should be some consideration because if somebody forgets facts, facts will quarrel. The *Efik* language is very important, and even in Ogoja Province to-day people are still speaking the language, and they are studying it in their schools. I do not see any reason why the *Efik* language should not be recognised as the fourth main language in Nigeria.

The Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation should broadcast their news in the four main languages of Nigeria and the *Efik* language should be that fourth language. I have said once in this House that languages are the tradition of a nation and, the older generation passes them to the younger generation and the younger generation in their efforts to modernise them take the root from the older generation.

In the olden days, the *Efik* language was the best known language in this country. Why should this glory be taken away from the *Efik* people now? It would not be said that because Prussia is very small and Germany has taken over the whole place, therefore, the Prussian language should be lost. I am appealing to the Minister of Information to consider including a fourth language to the three main languages of Nigeria and that language is the language that has been recognised and that has tradition behind it—the *Efik* language.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): Mr Chairman, Sir, after hon. Members have listened attentively to the policy paper read by the Minister of Information, I personally think the next thing is to tell the Minister what to add. I do not wish to criticise his Ministry because two days ago a lot was said about the Ministry of Information in this Parliament. I find at the end, after my own personal contribution to the debate, that it was not the fault of the Minister, the present Minister of Information. I found that the section of his Ministry known as the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation was wrong from the beginning when it was known as the Nigerian Broadcasting Service.

You do not expect the Minister of Information by now to cover the grounds not been covered for the past ten years when the present Minister of Labour was then an Announcer in the former Nigerian Broadcasting Service!

When the Minister was presenting his policy paper, Mr Chairman, he said, among other things, that he allayed the fears of Members, and my fear in particular by promising that the domestic policy adopted in the Ministry of Information as far as broadcasting is concerned is to be scrutinised and improved. He said that they have placed orders for better transmitters for external broadcasting and that there would be a Federal Television Service. If you look into the Estimates you will also see that the money we are to vote for the Ministry of Information this year is £ $\frac{1}{3}$ million higher than the money we voted for the Ministry last year. We can only tell the Minister that this money which is to be voted for his Ministry must be well spent.

[MR ODULANA]

There is no doubt that even in the Broadcasting Section of his Ministry the Board managing that Section is good. They are decent, fit and proper, and they have been doing a very good job of work. I implore the Minister to listen attentively to the advice of the Board. (*Interruptions*). I am not talking about the administrative set up, I am talking about the Board. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry was a former Member of the Board.

There is no doubt that the last speaker but one, when he said that the salary of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Information should be reduced to £800

Mr B. Ukaegbu : On point of correction, Mr Chairman. I did not say that the salary of a particular Parliamentary Secretary should be reduced to £800. I said that more work should be given to the Parliamentary Secretaries, otherwise they should be prepared to receive £800 *per annum* for the work they are doing now.

Mr Odulana : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell the Minister of Information that if Nigeria is to be well projected and well publicised abroad the next Director of Information should be a full-fledged Nigerian, for only a full-fledged Nigerian would be the fit and proper person to hold that Department. The Permanent Secretary should also be a full-fledged Nigerian. We cannot vote money for an expatriate who will only support his own country. Nigeria will not be well represented as far as news is concerned in the outside world if you employed an expatriate, unless the Minister will tell us that his staff should be from all parts of the World.

We were talking of the Nigerianisation of the whole Department before, but now we want the post of Permanent Secretary in this Ministry to be Nigerianised. If the news going out of Nigeria is to be disseminated properly to the outside world, the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Information should be a Nigerian. Also all the key posts in the Ministry should be Nigerianised and, I think the Minister will take this into consideration.

Now that the policy of that Ministry has been laid down before everyone of us, I have only to tell the Minister that if to some Members

he has not done anything, the programme put forward by him some few minutes ago is enough to pat him on the back and say—"Carry on ; you have our support".

Mr Chairman, Sir, this is all I want to contribute because the Minister has covered much ground.

The Chairman : I would like to remind hon. Members that we still have two other Heads to deal with within a quarter of an hour.

The Minister of Information : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to reply to points raised by Members. I entirely disagree with Mr Ukaegbu for his remarks on my Parliamentary Secretary. My Parliamentary Secretary is a first-class gentleman, energetic and hard-working.

I am grateful to Mr Odulana for his comments. I would like to assure him that the present holder of the post of Director of Information is a Nigerian.

Now I would like to say, Sir, that the point raised by hon. Enahoro is not true. At present we have nine vacant posts in the Federal Film Unit, one Film Director, one Film Production Instructor, one sound Supervisor, one Supervising Editor, one Senior Cameraman one Cameraman, one sound Recordist, one Negative Cutter and one Optical Printer. Owing to the fact that we have not got a sufficient number of officials there to produce a new film we are compelled to engage the services of Mr Edric Connor. As Members are fully aware, films are a very important medium for projecting Nigeria overseas.

As I said, Mr Chairman, I have requested the services of a very experienced film producer from the Canadian National Film Board under the Canadian Technical Assistance Programme, to take charge of the Film Unit and to reorganise it to meet our present needs. The official, however, has not yet arrived. Nevertheless, we should not stagnate in the making of films. The need to project Nigeria abroad is an urgent one and I propose that we should use the services of Mr Edric Connor, a well-known film producer, to make a prestige film of twenty-nine minutes for worldwide distribution at a cost of £20,000. Mr Connor is a well-known broadcaster, actor and film producer. Two of his films have recently been accepted for showing at the Edingburgh National Film Festival.

Mr Connor has agreed to take Nigerian trainees from our Film Unit under instruction while making the film. He has also agreed to undertake to hire out the film to commercial cinemas abroad and to pay the revenue therefrom, less his commission, into Federal Government funds. The estimated revenue from the film is at least £18,000. Thus the final cost to Nigeria of this film is likely to be only about £2,000. This seems to me, Sir, to be a very satisfactory arrangement and a wise expenditure of funds. (*Hear, hear*). That is why we have decided to engage the services of Mr Connor.

Mr Ukegbu, Sir, referred to the fact that only £50,000 is included in the Estimates. That is all that is required at present. The cost of television and external broadcasting which will start shortly will be about £1 million but the agreement is that we have to pay this money within six years. All the money we require at present is what is contained in the Estimates.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Hon. D. C. Ugwu): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am happy that you give me the opportunity to speak on the comment made by my hon. friend, Mr Ukegbu on the question of Parliamentary Secretaries. I happen to be the oldest Parliamentary Secretary in service and I think I can speak on behalf of the Parliamentaries. It is not true, and I would not like hon. Members to go out with the impression that Parliamentary Secretaries in the Federal Government are not given sufficient work by Ministers. If the hon. Mr Ukegbu had made a specific reference to a particular Minister, perhaps he would have the sympathy of the Parliamentary Secretaries. He generalised.

Mr Chairman, we all know that in this country the cabinet system of government is a new thing and both Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries are experimentists in the system. I want to assure the hon. House and perhaps through the House the public that in many Ministries Parliamentary Secretaries have as much work as can keep any Parliamentary Secretary very busy all the time. For example, I am the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education. Members of the Opposition know that I am responsible for the Federal Scholarship Board. Members of the House also should know that everything in

relation to scholarships, and primary education, as the hon. Mr Dosunmu will bear me out, are referred to me. The same thing applies to many other Parliamentary Secretaries.

So we want this to be known, that the Parliamentary Secretaries have their full work to do, and if there is any Minister who does not give sufficient work to his Parliamentary Secretary it is a question to be settled by the Minister and his Parliamentary Secretary themselves and not by this House.

Question, That an increased sum of £2,174,750 for Head 46—Ministry of Information—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.—

HEAD 47—MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Question proposed, That the sum of £153,060 for Head 47—Ministry of Internal Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to raise some important points on the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The first is registration of trade unions. Trade unionism is playing an increasing role in world affairs to-day. Hon. Members will have noticed that the various trade unions registered in this country are now grouping themselves into warring factions. There is constant quarrelling and dissipation of energy.

The Chairman: Order. We are not discussing trade unions now; this speech ought to have been made on the Head of the Ministry of Labour, not Internal Affairs.

Mr Ukah: Mr Chairman, Sir, I am speaking on registration of trade unions as contained in the Estimates under this head. I am now sounding this note of warning because I feel it is in the national interest. These trade unions must realise that registration is different from recognition. In the interest of the nation I should ask the Minister of Internal Affairs to keep a watchful eye on the activities of the various trade unions registered in this country.

The next point I want to raise is on the Film Censorship Board. This appears to be a very important Board considering the amount of money paid to the Secretary of the Board, £1,370, and, I see again, the sum of £1,000 as the allowance of the Chairman of the Board. Mr Chairman, Sir, I think this Board should do all it can to see that this country is safeguarded from the evil effects of bad films. These bad films do come into many countries

[MR UKAH]

and do untold damage. I think, in this formative stage of our country, if the information which we get through the radio, film and other means of information is the clean type, our country will grow very well.

Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few remarks I beg to support.

Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa): Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to mention a point on repatriation and deportation in Nigeria. This appears to be the first time we have something in our Estimates for that. A few weeks ago, we read about certain Nigerians or, at least, Africans, being deported from Nigeria. In Nigeria, we do not expect to go the way of Ghana; we do not want to deport Nigerians; we do not want to deport people as we are made to understand. Unfortunately, this incident happened in the Northern Nigeria where people cannot live in peace. Just this morning we were reading in the papers about Nigerians, in fact, Parliamentarians, hon. Members of this hon. House, being arrested in the North for an offence alleged to have been committed.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Hon. S. Lana): On a point of order, Sir. It is very irrelevant for the hon. Member to be referring to a case which is being in court.

Mr Gbolagunte: Mr Chairman, Sir, I was saying that just this morning we were reading in the papers that a certain Member of this House, the hon. Mr Tarka—to mention just one—was arrested in the Northern Nigeria.

The Chairman: I do not think this matter can be discussed as it is a matter under court jurisdiction.

Mr Gbolagunte: If we cannot discuss this point under this Head, I want the Chairman to allow me to mention deportation which we are sure is taking place in Northern Nigeria. I just want to say that if we are not free to move about in Nigeria then we are not in a free Federation. The Minister of Internal Affairs is responsible for the fundamental human rights and yet we find people in the Northern Nigeria who do not in any way enjoy the freedom.

The Chairman: Order, order. I would like to remind the hon. Member that the Minister of Internal Affairs is the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Federal territory of

Lagos and not the whole of the Federation of Nigeria.

Mr Gbolagunte: Sir, there is also another point. When one wants to go out of this country, one goes to obtain the required passport. Let us take this example—one wants to cross over to the French territory near us here and is supposed to have a passport but it is not at all easy for one to obtain it.

And it being 5.45 p.m. the Chairman proceeded, pursuant to Standing Order 4(3) to put the Questions necessary to dispose of the business under discussion.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. Usman Sarki): Sir, I think I should like to make a point of explanation. The hon. Member who spoke last, I think, is imputing some motives. These people who were deported are not Nigerians. (*Interruptions*). They can live here for one hundred years but if they are aliens their presence to-day is not conducive to our good and so these people must leave Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

£153,060 for Head 47—Ministry of Internal Affairs—agreed to.

HEAD 48—PRISONS

£1,230,070 for Head 48—Prisons—agreed to.

Then the Chairman left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress—to sit again upon Wednesday next.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East): Mr Speaker, Sir, the point I want to raise is about the standard and condition of the furniture provided for the flats of hon. Members. I do not hesitate to say that these chairs and the cushions which are put on them are rather disgraceful. I refuse to accept that they indicate the measure of respect accorded to hon. Members by the Government and I would want the hon. Minister of Works and Surveys to assure us that at least the standard of the chairs and the cushions on them would be improved and that at least such kind of chairs as we have in the Teas Foyer could be provided for hon. Members.

Then the maintenance and upkeep of these flats are also very disgraceful and they have made it impossible for Members to invite their friends to their flats.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Inuwa Wada): Mr Speaker, Sir, I take it that the hon. Member is not speaking in respect of all the flats provided for Members. The new flats that we have on the Victoria Island have new furniture and I take it that the furniture is not dilapidated. The same also applies to flats in Lugard Avenue. Those flats are new and the furniture is also supposed to be in good condition. But the old flats in Lawrence Road and thereabout, I agree with the hon. Member that some of the furniture there is not as good as it should be. What we normally do, Sir, is as soon as the flats are vacated by Members we send in workmen to renovate them and also repair any damages made either on the building or on the furniture itself. However, I have asked for a report from the Housing Manager on any faulty furniture in these flats which I hope to replace or repair before Members come again for the next meeting of the House.

An hon. Member: I want to add this one point, Sir. We have been living quite all right before we were voted for. We have been living quite all right at home before we ever come here. For this reason, I want to invite the attention of the Minister to the fact that we want to see something like television sets in our flats each time we come here. We want Rediffusion sets also. Secondly, we want to have telephones in each house because each time you want to telephone anybody outside you have to go down. The place is so far that you cannot always walk down.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not know if the Minister has himself seen the Victoria Beach flats since they were occupied. There are some obvious defects which ought to have been rectified long before now. Firstly, the entrance door opens right into the kitchen. There is no privacy whatsoever as far as that is concerned. Then for a person, and perhaps his visitors reclining in the sitting room to be disturbed by flavours that might be well appreciated to taste but certainly a nuisance when you are reclining.... I think, Sir, that it is a very fundamental mistake that should be corrected.

Secondly, Sir, the locks fixed to the entrance doors are not of superior make. I have personal experience of that. It is very easy to get embarrassed. The stopper very easily sticks and the key neither goes forward nor backwards. It can be embarrassing. Then, the bedroom has no lock.

An hon. Member: That is very important.

Mr Akwivu: We need Rediffusion sets, Sir. It is no use for people being insincere. When we come here, whether we adjourn for lunch or whether we adjourn finally for the day, everybody likes to have the satisfaction of listening to a report of what he has said in the House. You do not get any radio. In the old flats, however, you have got the Rediffusion sets there. I think those basic amenities ought to be provided. And for the floors in which we live to be dusty as if we are travelling on an untarred road, and yet one is living in a house, I think is unfair.

The Minister of Works: Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised points some of which I am quite ready to accept and make necessary repairs. The question of locks I will certainly look into. But the question of Rediffusion sets, I am sure the hon. Member will agree with me that we should economise and save public money wherever we can. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker: Order, order.

The Minister of Works: Hon. Members can quite easily afford to buy small transistor radios which cost only £11-10s-0d. (*Inter-ruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order, order, order, I say order!

The Minister of Works: I am rather amused, Sir, that the biggest noise comes from the Opposition side. I am sure the Opposition will criticise us if we bring something like this which will involve spending public money. They are now talking of radiograms, television sets and Rediffusion sets. We have got to buy these things out of our salaries. If you want them you should buy them from your own salary. (*Hear, hear*).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at two minutes to 6 o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Tuesday, 18th April, 1961

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

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

(1) Fifth Progress Report on the Economic Programme 1955-62 (Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1961).

(2) Report on the 44th Session of the International Labour Conference held in Geneva from 1st to 23rd June, 1960.

(3) Draft Revised Standing Orders of the House of Representatives.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

LABOUR

Unemployment in Nigeria

***O.128. Mr Ahmadu Fatika** asked the Minister of Labour, if, in view of the rise in the rate of unemployment, he will make a survey of unemployment throughout the Federation and what steps Government are taking to arrest this increasing unemployment.

The Minister of Labour : I am aware of the need for more accurate information than exists at present on the unemployment situation in the Federation. Accordingly, I have given priority to the establishment of an Employment Market Information Unit in my Ministry. The function of this Unit is to enquire into the employment situation in general in order to discover what may be the present and future labour employment demand and supply.

As to the steps being taken by Government which aim, among other things, at increasing employment opportunities, I refer the Honourable Member to the Answer which I gave to Question No. *O8 on the 4th of April, 1961.

Nigerian Workers in Fernando Po

***O.189. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Labour, whether he is aware of the sufferings of Nigerians who are recruited

for work in the Spanish Island of Fernando Po; if he will consider sending a commission of inquiry to investigate the conditions under which Nigerians work there; and if he will abrogate the agreement signed by the two nations if it is in the interests of Nigeria to do so, particularly now that this country is an independent nation.

The Minister of Labour : I am aware of the allegations concerning the conditions under which recruited Nigerians work in the Spanish Guinea, which, from time to time come to light. Complaints received are immediately enquired into by the staff of my Ministry posted in the territory and where evidence is found of bad treatment or bad conditions, the matter is vigorously pursued with the Spanish Government.

I intend to visit the territory next month in company of the Minister from the Eastern Region responsible for Labour and three other members whom I will name later, in order to see conditions at first hand.

Naturally, the Government will not hesitate to abrogate any treaty with a foreign power if it is in Nigeria's interest so to do. In so far as this agreement with the Government of Spanish Province of the Gulf of Guinea is concerned, it is the Government's intention to negotiate a revised agreement on my return from that visit.

***O.190. Dr B. U. Nzeribe** asked the Minister of Labour, how many Nigerians are working as labourers in Fernando Po; and what have Government done to protect their interests.

The Minister of Labour : There are 27,460 Nigerians working in Fernando Po and Rio Muni under the Labour Agreement and an additional unknown but large number of non-contract labourers who have settled in Spanish Guinea and who work for Spanish employers under conditions set out in the Spanish Labour Code Ordinance.

An Agreement has been entered into between the Federal Government and the Government of the Spanish Province of the Gulf of Guinea covering the conditions of employment of Nigerians recruited for work in these Territories. Nigerian Labour Officers are stationed at Santa Isabel, Bata and San Carlos who look after the interests of the Nigerian workers.

The Labour Agreement which was published in *Gazette* No. 60 of 31st October, 1957 is reviewed periodically with a view to obtaining fair and reasonable conditions of employment for these workers.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): Will the Minister say whether it is now advisable to know the number of Nigerians, both recruited labourers and those who went there on their own?

The Minister of Labour: It is advisable but not practical, now. I have just mentioned that thousands of Nigerians were annually conveyed from the hon. Member's home town to that island, and it is not possible to say whether they took up Spanish nationality and to do something about it.

Dr K. Ezera (Bende East): Would the Minister tell us when the original contract comes up for review and whether he can assure us that better terms are being put into the contract?

The Minister of Labour: It is due for renewal in a month's time. I am holding it up. But it is a matter which should be negotiated between our Government and that of the Spanish Government.

Employment Statistics

*O.191. **Mr P. O. Eleke** asked the Minister of Labour, what are the employment statistics at present.

The Minister of Labour: I am somewhat at a loss to reply to this question as I do not know what information the hon. Member requires. If he would inform me more precisely I will arrange for the answer to be published in the Official record.

*O.192. **Mr P. O. Eleke** asked the Minister of Labour, what steps are being taken by the Government to secure better conditions of service and more humane treatment for Nigerian labourers in Fernando Po.

The Minister of Labour: I am due to visit Fernando Po during May 1961, with the object of examining conditions of employment of Nigerian workers. I will be accompanied by the Minister responsible for Labour in the Eastern Region and an hon. Senator.

The Labour Agreement between the Federal Government and the Government of the

Spanish Province of the Gulf of Guinea is due for revision and a visit by the delegation at this time will enable decisions to be taken on the matters to be raised with the object of securing the best possible conditions of employment for Nigerian workers recruited for these territories.

Dr K. Ezera (Bende East): Would the Minister make sure that he visits not only the plantations in Santa Isabel, but also the ones in the hinterland where most Nigerians are really working under most appalling conditions.

The Minister of Labour: I am going to do a repeat performance. When last I visited the place I went to all the outlandish posts, and I quite agree that the conditions of labour in some places were not as good as in the places very near to the big cities. We did our best the last time and increased our labour officers there, and these officers are now giving good coverage to all the places. I am going to do the same thing this time and I shall leave no stone unturned to see that we improve matters.

MINES AND POWER

Uranium Deposits

*O.129. **Mallam Ali Gwarzo** asked the Minister of Mines and Power why Government have neglected the uranium deposits discovered in the southern part of Kano Province a few years ago.

The Minister of Mines and Power: It is not correct to say that Government has neglected the uranium deposits of the Kaffo granites near Leriue-n-Kano in the south of Kano province. The Geological Survey Division of the Ministry of Mines and Power investigated these deposits and carried out a diamond drilling programme with the object of determining the extent and value of the deposits. The Atomic Energy Research Establishment in the United Kingdom has also carried out ore dressing research on the problem of industrial scale separation and concentration of pyrochlore from the granite. The pyrochlore is the mineral containing the valuable constituents of uranium and columbium.

In addition the attention of large mining companies has been drawn to the existence of the deposits with the object of stimulating interest in the establishment of large scale exploitation.

The deposits have not been further developed and exploited because the operation would not be an economic one with present low market prices and demand for uranium and the associated columbium and other minerals.

Crude Oil

*O.194. **Mr K. Giadom** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what plans he has for the development of the areas from which crude oil is found in this country; and what measures exist to protect the interests of the people of those areas.

The Minister of Mines and Power : It is not within the competence of my Ministry to plan development in any areas whether crude oil has been found in them or elsewhere. Clauses of the licences and leases granted to the companies searching for oil protect the surface rights of the people in all areas in which they operate.

Electricity Supply

*O.195. **Mr D. O. Ahamefula** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he will state categorically when he intends to provide Okigwi Township with electricity; and whether he is aware that, of all the Divisions in the Federation of the same size and grade, Okigwi is the only one without any electricity in the whole area of its jurisdiction.

The Minister of Mines and Power : The Electricity Corporation has no plans to supply Okigwi with electricity, but if the Eastern Regional Government is prepared to provide the necessary capital on terms to be mutually agreed, the Corporation will be pleased to consider the inclusion of Okigwi in the next phase of its New Towns Development Programme.

Mineral Deposits

*O.198. **M. Usman Turaki** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether any exploration for minerals has ever been carried out around the hills and riverbeds in Kontagora; and if so, what is the result.

The Minister of Mines and Power : Reconnaissance surveys were undertaken by the Geological Survey Division in Kontagora Division in the course of water supply investigations. No minerals of economic importance were found.

In 1950, a Special Exclusive Prospecting Licence for Gold was taken out by a Mining Company along the Niger River above Jebba and a Geological investigation of the area was carried out, but no mining of gold resulted from this work.

Mr A. F. Odulana : If in 1950, inspite of the efforts put up, no mining of gold resulted perhaps due to incompetence and inefficiency of those who undertook it, will the Minister now see to it that a new set of people is sent in the near future to re-check the area?

The Minister of Mines and Power : It is the aim of my Ministry to see to it that the whole country is surveyed so that we may find mineral oils wherever they are existing in the country.

Electricity

*O.199. **M. Usman Turaki** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether there are any plans for supplying Kontagora and Zungeru with electricity.

The Minister of Mines and Power : The Electricity Corporation is at present preparing preliminary plans for Phase II of its new Towns Development Programme, and it is understood that the Northern Regional Government will be providing substantial funds for the development of selected townships in the North to be included in this programme.

I should like to suggest that the hon. Member request the Northern Regional Government to include Kontagora and Zungeru in the list of selected towns to be surveyed by the Corporation for the purpose of arriving at an economic appreciation of supply.

Oil Prospecting

*O.200. **Mr S. I. Onwuchekwa** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, how many companies are prospecting for oil in Nigeria; what are their names and areas of operation; and what is the duration of each of their licences.

The Minister of Mines and Power : Two companies are prospecting for oil in Nigeria at present. Shell-BP. Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited holds oil mining leases terminating in 1989 over 7,662 square miles and oil prospecting licences over 14,698 square miles terminating in January 1962. These areas are in the Niger Delta and eastward to the Cross River.

Tennessee Nigeria Inc. holds a prospecting licence terminating in 1967 over 1987 square miles along the coast from 15 miles east of Lagos to the head of the delta.

In addition, grants of prospecting licences on the Continental Shelf of four blocks totalling 4,000 square miles to Shell-BP., two blocks totalling 2,000 square miles to Gulf Eastern Company and two blocks totalling 2,000 square miles to American Overseas Petroleum Company have been approved. These grants can run for thirteen years. A grant of a prospecting licence on land to Gulf Eastern of 1921 square miles has been approved. This grant can run for 7 years. The area of this grant is mainly between Aba Town and the Cross River near Oron.

Mr R. O. Akinjide : Will the Minister consider the possibility of forming a Nigerian Oil Company to hold shares for the Nigerian Government in these oil companies, and with a view to studying the detailed account of this company and eventual take over, as in India?

The Minister of Mines and Power : I do not want to comment at length on this particular question because it involves nationalisation, a subject on which the Government has made its position clear. However, Government is keenly interested in the oil mining industry at present because the 50-50 agreement that is in existence is to the benefit of the Government, and the fact that Government is participating in the refinery that is going to be established by the oil companies is another indication that Government is not unaware of these things. (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order! I have noticed that there is applause in the gallery. This is not allowed.

***O.201. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what recommendations he proposes to make for the develop-

ment either directly or indirectly of areas in which oil is found since such areas are contributing considerably to the economic stability of this country.

The Minister of Mines and Power : It is not the responsibility of my Ministry as I said earlier, to make recommendations regarding development of any areas where oil has been found. I am sorry.

Coal Miners

O.204. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Mines and Power, how many miners were in the service of the Nigerian Coal Corporation in each of the years 1955 to 1960; and how many of these retired and without pensions.

The Minister of Mines and Power : The number of workers employed by the Coal Corporation each year from 1955 is as follows:—

1955	..	..	..	..	7,078
1956	..	..	..	..	7,148
1957	..	..	..	..	8,060
1958	..	..	..	..	8,165
1959	..	..	..	..	7,233
1960	..	..	..	..	5,502

and the present strength as at 13th April, 1961 is 3,264.

1,811 workers have retired from service with pensions and 1,221 have retired without pension but with gratuity.

Only 860 retired from service with neither pension nor gratuity but all of these had less than five years service. All those who have received benefits have been paid in accordance with Government Regulations.

Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi (Oshun South East) : May I know from the Minister whether the displaced Miners of old have been restored to the service?

The Minister of Mines and Power : This particular question on the retrenchment of miners is exercising my mind and, it has been the policy of the Government since last year to site certain industries in that area so that the retrenched miners may have some work in those industries.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : Has this exercise of the Minister's mind borne any fruit?

The Minister of Mines and Power : It is bearing fruits and as soon as practicable most of the Miners will be employed.

Retrenched Miners

O.205. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what plans he has to find alternative employment for or to recall those unfortunate miners who were laid off as a result of the economic crisis in the Nigerian Coal Corporation.

The Minister of Mines and Power : I am always mindful of the distressing fact that many miners now find themselves without employment; and in co-operation with the Eastern-Regional Government and the Coal Corporation I am doing all in my power to find new outlets for the coal produced in Enugu.

Umuahia

O.206. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he will state how many applications for electricity were received during the period January to December 1960 in Umuahia, indicating how many were successful; why was it not possible to meet the entire demand; and what plans has he to improve the situation.

The Minister of Mines and Power : It is difficult at such a short notice to obtain details of the number of applications for a supply of electricity at Umuahia which were submitted between January and December 1960, though this could be done if given the time. However, I am advised that the undertaking was commissioned in April 1960, and 387 consumers were connected and receiving supply at 31st December, 1960.

Umuahia is one of the more rapidly developing of the new undertakings, and it was obvious within a few months of commissioning that the maximum demand would rapidly outstrip the effective capacity of the power station plant. Early steps were taken to order additional plant and this is scheduled for installation within the next few weeks. When the additional plant is commissioned applicants awaiting supply will be connected as rapidly as possible.

INFORMATION**Radio Station in Bauchi**

***O.130. M. Balarabe Tafawa Balewa** asked the Minister of Information, whether he will consider establishing a radio station in Bauchi now that the town has been provided with electricity.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information : I am quite sure the hon. Minister will willingly give consideration to this matter.

B.B.C. News

***O.131. Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of Information how soon Radio Nigeria will cease relaying news from the British Broadcasting Corporation.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information : In December 1959, the Corporation commenced giving international news as well as national news in the N.B.C. bulletins, and at this stage reduced the number of B.B.C. relayed bulletins to two a day, one at 7 a.m. and one at 9 p.m.

I understand that the situation is to be reviewed by the Corporation at its next meeting, when all relevant factors will be considered.

M. Aminu Kano (Kano East) : Will the Minister consider that the Hausa broadcast from the B.B.C. is irrelevant and that Nigerians are not prepared to listen to Hausa from the B.B.C. but from Nigeria?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information : The B.B.C. runs its own programmes and the external affairs programme of the B.B.C. is run in co-operation with the Foreign Ministry. We cannot, as a Government or as a Corporation from Nigeria, direct the B.B.C. as to the information or propaganda which it should relay to any part of the world. We can only organise our own programmes here, we cannot control the B.B.C. programmes.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan North-East) : Is the Minister aware that the relay of the B.B.C. news even once a day over Radio Nigeria makes us look ridiculous?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information : I do not think that it necessarily makes us look ridiculous, but I have assured the House that the situation is due for a review. Probably it is one of those things inherited from our colonial days which have to be remedied, but surely you do not have to do these things overnight.

I have given my hon. Friend the assurance that anything that the N.B.C. will do to enhance the prestige of Nigeria will be done when there is need for it. (*Hear, hear.*)

Provincial Information Offices

*O.207. Mr N. E. Elenwa asked the Minister of Information whether he is considering establishing information offices in all the Provinces of the Federation.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information: The Information Division of the Ministry is undergoing re-organisation and this proposal will be taken into consideration.

DEFENCE

Military Training

*O.132. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Defence, how many Nigerians are being trained in England under the Defence Agreement.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence: The present number of Nigerians undergoing training in the United Kingdom under the Defence Agreement is 48, Seventeen of them in Naval Establishments, and 31 in Military Establishments. It is hoped that this number will increase to 114 before the end of the year, 1961-62.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South): How many of these were admitted after the 1st of October, 1960?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence: That requires notice.

Defence Agreement

*O.133. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Defence, what steps are being taken to conclude a Defence Pact with a major power like the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, in order to avoid being regarded as pro-Western by the Eastern bloc.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence: None, Sir.

Nigerian Troops in the Congo

*O.134. Mr D. N. Abii asked the Minister of Defence, whether he is aware that Nigerian soldiers serving under the United Nations Command in the Congo killed many natives who were ill-equipped; and if he will make a statement as to the circumstances of such an occurrence.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence: Nigerian troops under the United Nations Command in the Congo have always acted strictly in accordance with United Nations policy and instructions as regards the use of force. On several occasions Nigerian soldiers have been obliged to open fire as a last resort in self defence when attacked by Baluba tribesmen.

On one occasion after a train had been derailed by Balubas, a small party of Nigerian soldiers who had been acting as train guard were attacked constantly throughout the night by greatly superior numbers, some of whom were using poisoned arrows.

Casualties have been inflicted upon attackers only after great forbearance on the part of our soldiers.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema): How many Nigerians were killed by those poisoned arrows?

Mr Speaker: It is now half past ten and under Standing Order 13 (3) no further Questions can be taken. The answers to the remaining questions will be published in to-day's *Hansard*.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg leave to make the following statement on the subject of the selection of Workers' Representatives on the Nigerian Tripartite Delegation to the 45th Session of the International Labour Conference to be held in Geneva in June 1961.

Hon. Members will be aware of the disunity in the central trade union movement of the country. There is no doubt that this disunity is a cause of wide public concern. It has from time to time created difficulties and embarrassment to the Government in selecting workers' representatives for International Labour Conferences. The Constitution of the International Labour Organisation in respect of the selection of non-Government representatives requires that the Government undertakes to nominate such delegates and advisers chosen in agreement with industrial organisations, if such organisations exist, which are most representative of employers or work people, as the case may be.

[MINISTER OF LABOUR]

There are two organised central trade union bodies—the Trades Union Congress of Nigeria and the Nigerian Trades Union Congress. Last year these two bodies forwarded lists to my Ministry which indicated the number of trade unions and members affiliated to them. The figures of membership were checked with the latest returns of the various unions concerned rendered to the Registrar of Trades Unions. The following was the position; the Trades Union Congress of Nigeria claimed the affiliation of eighty-eight unions having a membership of 86,197. The Nigerian Trades Union Congress claimed the affiliation of forty-six unions having a membership of 48,451. These figures take account of the movement of a few unions from one body to the other which subsequently took place.

It is significant to note that there are 197 unions having a membership of 142,029 which are not affiliated to either of the two central trade union bodies. It is also significant that the two largest unions in the country, namely, the Nigerian Union of Teachers and the Nigerian Civil Service Union, who together claim a membership of 97,236, are in the group of non-affiliated unions. It will be noted that the total membership of the unions which have not affiliated to either central body is more than the total membership of both central trade union bodies put together. (*Shame!*)

Hon. Members will have seen my reply to Written Question No. W.84 which appears in yesterday's report of the debates of the House wherein I have explained the various efforts made to assist the two central bodies to close their ranks in the interest of the unity and solidarity of the workers of Nigeria. The state of affairs that I have disclosed is clearly a disgrace to this country, especially since the attainment of our independence. Hon. Members will no doubt agree that no credit attaches to the leaders of these two bodies who have persistently failed, for reasons best known to them, to demonstrate the unity which is essential to the working class movement of this country. (*Hear, hear.*)

In the course of the meeting I held with the representatives of the two central trade union bodies as recently as the 23rd March, 1961, both sides, for the first time ever, agreed on one point, and that is that if by the end of March,

1961, they were unable to provide me with a unanimous nomination, then I can use my discretion to nominate the workers' representatives for the forthcoming conference.

Accordingly, Sir, I have nominated the following representatives: Mr L. L. Borha, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress of Nigeria and Deputy Member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation, the latter a position of some national prestige to which he was appointed last year in Geneva as Workers' Delegate, and Alhaji Audu Danladi, Secretary of the Northern Mineworkers Union, as Workers' Adviser. (*Applause.*)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

UNITED NATIONS INTERVENTION IN CONGO SITUATION

Mr B. N. Ukaegbu (Owerri South East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name that this House regrets the failure of the United Nations Organisation to restore order and stability in the Congo and asks the Government to direct the Nigerian Permanent Representative in the U.N.O. to press with increased vigour the formula suggested by the Prime Minister in the course of his first address to the World Assembly for the restoration of peace and order to the Congo.

The Motion, Sir, is not intended to be a criticism of any action taken by the Federal Government in the Congo situation. It is an expression of our disappointment over the failure of the United Nations Organisation to restore order effectively in the Congo when it had the opportunity to do so. Everybody knows, Sir, that the United Nations Organisation is definitely on trial in the Congo and it will not be too much to say that how this Organisation acquits itself in the Congo crisis from the beginning to the end will go a great length to determine what will be its chances of stemming the forces of aggression in the present world.

Now, Sir, the Congo crisis has lasted a long time now but this House has not had the chance to debate it. I do not think therefore that it will be out of place for me to trace a bit of

the stages that led to it as well as mention some of the major events that have so far taken place. First of all, Sir, if we direct our minds to events there, we will recall that the Congolese people were agitating for independence vigorously. We know how prepared they were and the Belgian authorities also knew how prepared they were. Because of the trend of events in Africa, the Belgians knew that they could not continue indefinitely to hold sway over the Congo and they granted independence to the Congolese with vengeance in their hearts. They did not want to prepare the Congolese for independence in any way and, therefore, it would not be too much to say that when they granted independence with a vicious constitution they knew what was going to happen and that they were prepared at any moment to go back there.

I will not waste the time of the House rehearsing the various events; I will only bring your minds back to the fact that a week after independence the Congolese Army mutinied and the Belgians took this as an opportunity of returning to their ex-colonial territory. It is not too much to say that this was an act of aggression against the people of the Congo Republic. It was an act of illegal intervention in Congolese affairs by the Belgian authorities. The United Nations knew this but did not act to stop the influx of the Belgians into the Congo. We then heard of the breakaway of the Katanga Province and the Belgians took this also as an excuse of pouring in soldiers, military advisers, technicians and administrators into this breakaway Province in order to protect their economic interests.

It has come to light, Sir, as many hon. Members must have known, that the decision to break away from the Congo Republic on the part of Moise Tshombe is not exactly what we see on the surface; that it was all a conspiracy by Belgian nationalists and that this was done, if not with the approval of America and Britain, at least with their connivance. They connived at it and we would not be saying too much if we said that this was a rape on the negro people.

It was a rape on Africa because you will agree that the Congo Republic occupies a very strategic position in the continent of Africa;

it has a common boundary with the Central African Federation and forms a sort of bulwark against the migration northwards of the apartheid policy of the South African Government. A country twice as large as Nigeria and with a population of forty million people, second in population to Nigeria and Egypt, became independent and had a nationalist government. The imperialist were shaken and afraid that with Nigeria independent, the Sudan independent, the Congo independent and a number of other independent African states, a time was coming when the liquidation of colonialism and imperialism and racial discrimination in Africa would be a matter of days. They knew this and they were prepared to do anything and they went to very great lengths as all of us do now know.

Sir, if one wants to understand the confused events in the Congo one has to use an analytical method because these events have been very confused. There have been sentiments; there have been accusations and counter accusations; there have been character assassinations disseminated by the imperialist press and radio. We here find it difficult to sort out the mess in the Congo, and therefore, in examining whether the United Nations actually discharged its duties creditably in the Congo or not, we would have to ask the following questions and try to find answers to them.

First of all, when the Congolese Army mutinied was the legitimate Government entitled to ask for external aid in order to restore internal order? If an external agency like the U.N.O. came in answer to such a call, was it its primary duty to assist the legitimate Government to restore order or not? Did the U.N.O. during those critical periods, assist the legitimate Government? If it did not (as we know it did not) why did it not? Sir, the answer to this last question as to why the United Nations Organisation did not assist the legitimate Government to restore order or, at least, did not effectively assist it, is not very far to find. And the answer also is the real tragedy of the Congo situation.

The answer is that the N.A.T.O. countries, particularly America and one might also say Britain, had the mistaken conclusion that victory for Lumumba and the nationalist Government in the Congo meant victory for Russia and communism.

[MR UKAEGBU]

But we want to examine the facts, even though we are not for communism or against communism. What interests us would be how, on the face of the records, one can say that Lumumba and his nationalist Government were pro-communists or were communist agents. One finds that one must ask the question: When the government found itself in trouble to whom, first, did it turn for assistance? To whom first did Lumumba appeal for assistance to break the mutiny in the army and to forestall the secession of the province of Katanga? We know he appealed to Britain and the United States of America. On the face of it the reaction of America and England was technically correct. They said that they did not want to come in as individual nations otherwise this might bring in Russia also as an individual nation and that they wanted to act through the United Nations Organisation.

This is proper and right on the face of it, but did they allow the United Nations Organisation to take effective decisions and carry out these decisions effectively? They did not, Sir. And here also, when the history of the United Nations Organisation comes to be written, it may be quoted as the tragedy of this organisation.

With the permission of Mr Speaker I may just quote a few lines from the obituary of the former League of Nations as it was sung in 1946 during the San Francisco Conference. It was said here in 1946 that when the League of Nations was finally liquidated the President of the last Assembly summed up the experiment of the League of Nations in words which are an appropriate epitaph for this hybrid between power politics and true collective system. He said:

"We are not assembled to discuss why our efforts were unavailing in the years gone-by. We know we were lacking in moral courage, that we often hesitated when action was needed, and that we sometimes acted where it would have been wiser to hesitate. We know that we were reluctant to shoulder responsibilities for great decisions when greatness was needed".

And here may be the tragedy—although I pray that it should not be the final tragedy—of this world organisation.

Sir, now we turn to this question—could the United Nations Organisation, taking all the circumstances into consideration, have restored order and stability in the Congo during those crucial early stages? Was it in the power of the Organisation to have done so and did it do so? The only problem in the Congo then was that the army had mutinied because of their dissatisfaction with the fact that Europeans were having the controlling offices in the army and perhaps they were not very well paid. But we knew that even at that time of mutiny they were not against the nationalist government of Mr Patrice Lumumba.

We also know that when Tshombe decided to break away the Province of Katanga, at the initial stage, that province was not militarily equipped. The strong military force which is now existing in Katanga was not in existence then. Therefore, Sir, could the United Nations Organisation at that time not have brought their forces to bear on the situation in order to help the nationalist government to quell the mutiny in the army, and at the same time bring the Tshombe group to book? At that time Tshombe had no army. The Belgians had not started to arrive in good numbers. Therefore, Sir, with the slight assistance of the U.N.O. the central government could have brought the Tshombe group to book, especially as Katanga then was not even united. There was a very strong element of opposition to the breakaway Katanga Province of Moise Tshombe.

Another aspect of it is that the United Nations Organisation could have taken the decision and said: 'Let us help this government because the government was a legitimate one, it was a generally elected government'. It was therefore right to receive assistance from outside to quell the mutiny in its early stage. By that time the mutiny was not a rebellion, it was not an insurrection. The fact of this affair is that Tshombe himself had no claim to belligerent rights according to international law. Therefore, the central government had the right to do anything against Tshombe and against the army in order to bring order and stability in that country.

And now, Sir, if the United States did not want Mr Patrice Lumumba to bring in the Russians, why did they not assist him?

On the other hand, Sir, the African States: Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, Egypt and Tunisia, and so on, who contributed contingents of soldiers to the U.N.O. Force in the Congo did that with the express intention that the United Nations Organisation was going to use them at its disposal to bring down the mutineers and the secessionists. I am sure I am not wrong when I say that if countries like Ghana, Libya, Tunisia and the Sudan were allowed to act outside the ambit of the United Nations they would have placed their soldiers at the disposal of the legitimate government and would have authorised that government to use their soldiers to restore order in that country. But the United Nations Organisation took the African soldiers into the Congo but did not make use of them as their own countries had intended to use them.

The crucial point was that the decision, the necessary resolution in the U.N.O. which would have allowed this use of force could not be taken, and so the U.N.O. could use force to maintain order. If they had used force to maintain order in the army and maintain order in Katanga, the central government would have had no trouble at all. And one might ask the question: Why was the necessary decision not taken then? It was because the representatives in the U.N.O. of America and Britain and so on, put their foot down and opposed this necessary resolution.

Now, Sir, I will leave that side and turn to the part played by certain African States during the height of the Congo crisis. We have here, Sir, a foreign policy of non-alignment, which has been put to test in the Congo as well as in the United Nations. We shall have occasion to examine how far this policy has been successful. But when we look at the policy of countries like Ghana and Egypt, who sent their contingents to the U.N.O. force, we see that they took sides in this internal squabble. They supported one side; they believed in that. Sir, this policy of supporting one side in the Congo could have been successful if those nations like Ghana and Egypt had gone all out with the policy of supporting one side. If they did not want to remain neutral, as we ourselves have remained, they could have sent their army, the whole contingents at their disposal, to Mr Patrice Lumumba and he could have used these in quelling the rebellion among his people at the same time.

But instead of doing that they supported him half and half and they made him ambitious and so on. He would have accepted a compromise. But at the crucial time they did not support him. In this connexion, Sir, I respect the Prime Minister's view that we should not compare ourselves with Ghana, and so on, because comparison is odious. But I should say that irrespective of opinions borne of our own policy in the Congo it is obvious that the policy of Ghana in the Congo was a failure.

If we let bye-gones to be bye-gones we should face the situation up in the way we have done in order to help restore order in the Congo. I should say, Sir, that the following things should be done. We in this country have a very fine opportunity of taking the initiative. We should in concert with other Afro-Asian powers evolve a uniform policy for the Republic of Congo. At the start, a decisive force, decisive military intervention might be successful. It is obvious now that as things stand force cannot solve the problem in the Congo at all. The Afro-Asian powers must bring pressure to bear on America and England to support a federation for the Congo on the lines of ours here in Nigeria. We ourselves here, not minding the internal affairs of the Congo or otherwise, must oppose the proposed fragmentation of the Congo in which a confederation of the semi-independent states was proposed at the Tananarive conference.

One cannot end this speech without commending the efforts made by hon. Jaja Wachuku in the world assembly. He has comported himself very well and the credit he has won is a credit to Nigeria as a whole. While saying that, one may end by sounding a note of warning, that it would serve no useful purpose at all for our representative to attack the President of the Ghana Republic, or the leader of any African State for that matter, in the world assembly. I think that such an attack is uncalled for and that it would not help the solidarity of the African continent.

With these, Sir, I beg to move.

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion which has been ably moved by my colleague, Mr Ukaegbu. Quite often History has a dramatic way of repeating itself.

[DR EZERA]

A quarter of a century ago, Ethiopia was a testing ground for the sincerity and the effectiveness of the League as an instrument of peace and collective security. Ethiopia was disgraced and sacrificed in the quest for peace at any price, even at the price of the immolation of an aggrieved weak State at the feet of its aggressor. The great European colonial powers deliberately connived at, and even aided and abetted Italy's ungodly plan to exterminate Ethiopia. And after the betrayal, they proceeded immediately and unashamedly to embrace the bandit and murderer, Italy's Mussolini!

To-day, Sir, in the second half of the 20th century, it is the Congo—again another African territory. Instead of the League, it is the United Nations (which is the League of Nations in a new gab). Instead of Italy, the blood-thirsty imperialist power this time is Belgium—another European imperialist nation. The great European powers are almost the same. The setting is complete and the tragic drama of the rape of the Congo had assumed identical proportions.

The tragedy of the Congo, Sir—indeed as my hon. Friend Mr Ukaegbu has very much traced—started when Belgium hurriedly, I repeat hurriedly, and without the necessary preparation, which we over here under Britain had and here one must pay tribute to the British colonial policy as far as the West African territories are concerned: they prepared us and we had at least six years' internal self-government before assuming complete control—surrendered power to the Congolese. In the Congo the policy of paternalism which, of course, did not believe that the African was fit to rule himself, was the policy of the Belgians. And there events went too fast: they hurriedly handed over power to the Congolese who had never never had the experience of internal self-government.

They stood behind, gave them independence with one hand and with the other they sought to sustain a new colonialism there. And like all such occasions in history, Sir, an uncompromising African nationalist leader was thrown off. Patrice Lumumba stood like a firm wall against Belgian imperialism.

He invited the United Nations to help his country consolidate their newly won independence. Truly, Sir, he made several practical

errors of omission and commission. But it is also true that he alone represented in the whole of the Congo the rallying point which could have been utilised to weld together the unity of that strife-torn country. But events moved so fast that before long, the Western Powers, finding him unreliable for their purposes, gave their backing to Lumumba's political rivals.

Under the very eyes of the United Nations—and this is where precisely I am very much interested, and I think we should be interested—under the very eyes of the United Nations whom he had invited, Patrice Lumumba was imprisoned and subjected to the most inhuman ill-treatment that history has ever known.

But perhaps the blackest record of the United Nations in the Congo is its passive indifference and unwillingness to prevent the foul murder of this first Congolese Prime Minister. (*Hear, hear*). We here in Nigeria abhor, as the Prime Minister had on occasions said, we abhor intimidations; we abhor assassination of political opponents. We believe that, for democracy to survive, political opponents must be encouraged just as our opponents are sitting across opposite us in fact they are forever abusing the Prime Minister and he takes it in good part, and of course—this shows our maturity in Nigeria—(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order, order. Dr Ezera may proceed.

Dr Ezera: But, Sir, let us face one fact and face it squarely. The way in which traitors like the so-called General Mobutu, in collusion with the ex-seminarian, President Kasavubu, sold their prisoner, a political prisoner, over to his bitter rival, the secessionist stooge, Moise Tshombe, is one of the most revolting and one of the most disgusting of the many horrible and farcical episodes in the history of Africa! (*Hear, hear*). For this, the United Nations leadership stands condemned in the eyes of many African States and of the world. (*Applause*).

Sir, to condemn the United Nations leadership is not to belittle its many invaluable services rendered to that strife-torn country by the U.N. Specialised Agencies. It is a fact that in spite of the limitations of its Charter, the United Nations technical staff have largely succeeded in stemming widespread epidemics and famine in the Congo

Republic. There is no doubt about that. But it is the failure, its woeful failure to protect the life of Lumumba—even though we all did not like some of the things he did or how he did them—is the blackest record of the United Nations. (*Hear, hear*).

To be frank, Sir, the story of the United Nations intervention in the Congo has not inspired confidence in the minds of many Africans. Yet, I must say, on my own part, that I still regard the United Nations as mankind's last best hope for peace. It is indispensable as an instrument of peace, and Nigeria as a very weak State (at least we can say that we are just beginning) must continue to support it. Such support, however must not be a blind one. We must recognise that since that body—that is the United Nations—is a League of States, it must therefore reflect the sum total of the wishes and aspirations of the various states.

Herein, Sir, lies the opportunity for Nigeria to attempt to express its views unflinchingly on the vexed problems of the day. Herein lies the opportunity for us to mandate our United Nations Permanent Delegate to press with renewed vigour the suggestions, the noble suggestions advanced by our well respected Prime Minister Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa (*Hear, hear*), during his maiden speech before the United Nations.

He said, Sir, amongst other things, that in the Congo there should be a fresh election and that whosoever was elected should be accepted as the legitimate leader of that country. He also suggested further that Parliament should be assembled and should be regarded as the supreme Legislative body of that country. (*Hear, hear*). And furthermore (and I think this is the most important of all his suggestions) he said that by no means should we allow ideological warfare to be brought into Africa. (*Hear, hear*). That was a very important point—that on no account must African States allow the battle of the cold war to be brought to the African Continent.

I am sorry to say, Sir, that these suggestions were not taken by the United Nations. The great powers saw the Congo issue as an issue of the cold war, and that is why we here felt very much disappointed. By and large, the theme

of the Prime Minister's speech, as one could very well remember, should have been taken into very great consideration.

Here, Sir, I must digress a little and say that when the news of Lumumba's death reached us here in Nigeria, I am positively sure that even those of us who did not like the way he handled the issues in the Congo felt very much hurt about it, and the demonstrations in Lagos were nothing but a manifestation of how Nigerians felt. But unfortunately, like all such demonstrations, it went wild and went out of bounds. And here, I think we must do everything we can to retrieve the loss of confidence that we have imposed upon ourselves by the reckless way we damaged the properties of aliens in our midst. I do not think that was right.

An hon. Member : But we were provoked.

Dr Ezera : I do not think that was right, even if we were provoked. I think that the Prime Minister and the Governmental Bench, particularly the Minister of Information, should do everything possible to assure our overseas friends that it is not our intention to destroy their property and to assault even their persons. Furthermore the Minister of Information should use all the agencies at his disposal to educate the public on this very burning issue and say where we stand, so that the public will not have to take this wild move of destroying property.

To conclude, Sir, I think that we are not condemning the United Nations, we should support the United Nations; our troops are in the Congo maintaining peace. But, Sir, we should not by any means, directly or indirectly, allow them to be used to serve the interests of any selfish party. They should be there primarily to maintain the primacy of the African and for the crucial object of maintaining law and order.

Sometimes we get worried when we receive or hear the news here that our soldiers are used to protect Belgian interests. I hope this is not correct news. It makes us feel as if Nigeria is becoming a traitor to other African states. We do not feel very happy when we begin to see our country which, of course, should be the leading country in Africa, playing the role of a stooge. We are not stooges and I am sure our Government is not a stooge in this respect. Our soldiers are

[DR EZERA]

there to maintain the integrity of the African and to show from all evidence available that Nigeria can be relied upon; and I am very happy to state that we are happy with all the news that reaches us about the role of the Nigeria Police and Army in the Congo, and again the role that our Permanent Delegate has played in the United Nations.

One last point, Sir. The death of a Nigerian soldier who was killed in the Congo, Lieutenant Ezeugbana, is a very tragic loss; perhaps there are more. But, Sir, we want to know what compensation has been given to his bereaved family and why his corpse was not flown home as was promised by the authorities. His parents of course made all the preparations. All these things help to lower the morale of our troops.

We want to emphasise that we are not condemning the United Nations for condemnation's sake. All we are saying is that it did not do enough to protect the life of the Congolese Prime Minister.

Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move an Amendment to this original Motion. My Amendment is: "Line 1, leave out from 'House' to end and add—takes note of the efforts of the United Nations Organisation to restore order and stability in the Congo and asks the Federal Government to direct all its attention to the continued adoption, by the Security Council of the General Assembly of the U.N.O., to measures designed to bring about peace and order in the Congo".

Sir, this is a very, very serious Motion and a very important one too, and I think a Motion on which all of us should really express our views without emotion and without being carried away by whatever people outside might say. As we are all aware, the situation in the Congo is a very confused one. The country was handed over to the indigenous people by a colonial power before that power had prepared those people to shoulder the heavy responsibilities of independence.

As I told the United Nations in my address to them last October, one often wonders how the Congolese Constitution came about, whether there had been discussions with the

Congolese leaders themselves, and at what levels, one could not say. For it appears to many of us who are closely concerned with the situation, almost from day to day, that there did not seem to be serious and country-wide consultations with the people of the Congo before the Constitution which gave them independence was arrived at.

And it appeared to us also that the Congo had been run by Belgium on a unitary basis and no attempt during the colonial regime was made on the part of the colonial power to bring together the Provinces of the Congo Republic.

Therefore, Sir, when some people agreed that the Congo should be independent we did not think that they knew exactly what they were saying, and possibly they forgot that men at times like to get together and plan for something big while they forget that ambitions could break them into bits. So, I think this is what happened—the country got its independence; they had a Constitution which the colonial power suggested should be a provisional one and that after they were established they could sit down by themselves and draw up a new Constitution to their own liking, and that the present Constitution was just to start them off.

It was very unfortunate, Sir, that as soon as it started some countries within Africa and outside Africa suddenly became interested in the affairs of the Congo Republic. Most unfortunately, instead of allowing the Congolese, who were not prepared to shoulder the responsibilities of independence, instead of allowing them to be by themselves, to have time to think and to have time to understand themselves and to know their country, some people outside the Congo—within Africa and outside Africa—started to put into the heads of Congolese leaders that they should do this, they should do that. As a result, Mr Speaker, opinion was divided in the Congo.

It might be, as suggested by some hon. Members, that the former colonial power have their hands in this matter. It might be that some of the great powers have their hands in it, and it might be that some of the independent African countries have their hands in this confusion. It might be possible, and, I think that from the reports which the Reconciliation Committee published very shortly, especially on documents submitted to the Committee by President Kasavubu,

one could see that there are indications that some countries in Africa and outside Africa have really interfered in the affairs of the Congo. And so, Sir, there was confusion there.

The Head of State, who was, of course, legally appointed, dismissed the Prime Minister who was also legally appointed, and the confusion began. One man broke away and said his province was a separate state. Another man within that same province said his own portion had become a State, and another man set up himself somewhere else and said he had created a new province, and he has a separate state. And so the thing continued to go on. Perhaps the most unfortunate thing was that the A.C.N., the Congolese Army, broke into bits too, and each went to a portion of those claimants to the rightful leadership of the Congo.

It was not only Colonel Mobutu, but also many others. They had got portions of the Congolese Army with them. All these armies, Sir, were under no control whatsoever. They did not listen to the political leaders. They did not listen to their officers, and some of them were just roaming about and stealing and looting.

Sir, I do not wish to say too much. I hope that Members will have the chance to read the Report of the Reconciliation Committee which has been published, and I understand that the recommendations have been more or less accepted by the General Assembly. I have amended the Motion in this way because I have noticed that since my address to the General Assembly last October there have been many changes. It is not true that the United Nations have failed. Indeed all of us criticise the United Nations' role in the Congo; but it was not the fault of the Forces and the administrative set up of the United Nations in the Congo; I think it was the fault of the organisation itself, because the United Nations Organisation itself did not give clear directions to their representatives in Leopoldville.

How could one expect troops drawn from 15 or 18 countries, differently trained, differently organised, dispersed all over a large area twice the size of Nigeria, to give a good result? How could one expect any good result to come out of that without proper planning right from the start? When the appeal was

made to the Secretary-General for help they thought the situation was not as serious as they found it. That is what I think. And they asked for troops to be sent. No purpose was defined and details were not given. All the countries agreed to send troops. They sent them, and they found they were dispersed all over the place.

For example, we found, when we sent our troops to that country, that we had 200 men in one place which could easily be surrounded. And had it not been for the good training and efficiency of the Nigerian Army a very big disaster might have happened when our troops were surrounded in their barracks. Fortunately they fought a very good battle with the Congolese Army, in which they lost only one man, and that man was ambushed, not actually killed during the battle in their barracks.

Therefore, Sir, some of us are not surprised that the United Nations appear not to have solved the problem in the Congo, but from all indications now, from the Resolutions of the Security Council, from the new move which is going on, with more countries willing to send in troops, with Kasavubu yesterday giving an undertaking that he will co-operate with the United Nations in re-arranging and training the Congolese Army, there is hope that something might come out of it. I must, however, say that things have gone quite deep in the minds of the people. I have read the Report of the Reconciliation Committee. I have read a lot of stuff about the Congo, and I find that the thing has gone very deep.

If the Congolese themselves do not put away their personal ambitions, if they do not come to recognise the importance of their keeping together, whatever efforts the United Nations put up there will be I think, of very little use.

It appears to me, Mr Speaker, that there are countries in this world, both in the West and in the Eastern bloc, who are prepared to spread trouble any where. Whether they have decided to see no success in new countries, or that they are just out to make trouble, nobody knows. But these units of the Congolese Army which are now Serving under different so-called governments in the Congo are being supplied, unfortunately, with arms from outside the country. Some people, who are called mercenaries, from foreign countries are joining

[PRIME MINISTER]

the armies of splinter groups : and in nearly all these armies in the Congo you will find European Officers leading the units, and I am particularly happy with the latest Security Council's Resolution that, even if the United Nations have to use force, civil war must be stopped in the Congo.

The situation, Sir, is really very grave, and we in the Federal Government are very concerned about it, because we feel that the situation in the Congo might have its repercussions in African countries immediately next door to us. It is our wish to try to stop foreign intervention in the Congo, and it is our belief that the solution of the Congo problem is primarily a concern of the African countries ; and also I do not believe that the solution is a military one at all. I think the solution is political.

If we in Africa will be sincere about it—and here I refer to all independent African countries—if we shall be sincere, if we shall have no interest in the Congo, if we are only out to assist the Congolese to come together and to realise their responsibilities and to know that, whatever it is, they have to live in their country themselves, if we are able to do this without showing interest one way or the other, I think we shall help the Congo quite a lot. But, Mr Speaker, Sir, it appears that some people have already decided to join one side or the other, We in Nigeria support no faction in the Congo at all. We do not support any. (*Hear, hear*).

All we want in the Congo is that there should be peace and stability. We do not want people to interfere in our internal affairs, we do not want people to interfere in the internal affairs of other African Territories. Sir, the sad thing about this is that when I was making a study of the situation, I found that the situation was not as bad, as far as the human material is concerned, as it appeared to be at all. With organization, the Congo Republic has got enough people in the subordinate class who could run the country. That is what I found.

It is most unfortunate that things have been so confused. All I want to ask hon. Members is this : these debates are heard all over the world. I could remember that not very long ago, the Head of State of the Congo and, I think, other Congolese, heard statements made by people in Nigeria and they said they were

horrified by those statements because Nigeria had always maintained an independent attitude, siding no section at all, and they would like us to continue like that. I think, Sir, that that is the foremost of the reasons why our Police and the Troops have the confidence of the Congolese whether they were pro-Mobutu's or they were pro-Lumumba's.

The House will remember when we went to the Congo, that the Newspapers did not give us this credit. Our first encounter, Sir, was I think with pro-Mobutu troops, the second encounter, was with pro-Lumumba troops, and it showed we were there merely to see that there is law and order ; that is all our interest, we have no other interest at all and we are not there to serve the course of any Imperialist regime at all. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker, I hope that all the independent African countries would understand the situation. It was a very very serious situation. Nobody can tell what will happen. In a week, I would see that things are going rather smoothly. Suddenly I would discover that things were really worse than they had been a week before. It is a very very explosive and dangerous situation and I think we must be very careful in what we say. I look forward to the debate on this Motion so that this House could contribute in concrete ways, measures which would help the United Nations in its efforts to bring about peace in the Congo.

Now, I have amended this Motion to say "notes, or appreciates with satisfaction" because if you go out to help to restore law and order, and you are still there, you do not call it a failure. There might be disappointments, we criticized the United Nations, because they were not doing what we thought they should, but they are there not to interfere in the internal affairs of the Republic. We shall not allow any interference in the Congo Republic, we shall all be independent and the Congo will be a Member of the United Nations. We shall not allow any interference, it is an independent country and the United Nations are there at the invitation of that country. So we cannot allow the United Nations to come and assume all powers.

Though, of course, I will tell you, to be more realistic, it would have been much better if there had been a proper organization of the United Nations to sit side by side with the

Congolese Government to show them the way, how to go on. I agree, and that is why in my speech in the General Assembly, I suggested that there should be a provisional Government an all-party Government, that the Parliament should meet, and the whole affairs should be put before the Congolese Leaders themselves.

They do not seem to know the facts, and I want us to know that things have gone so much out of hand, that it is very very difficult to say what will happen. If you go into the Congo now, you will see that soldiers are armed with modern weapons. They got them from outside somehow, they are under no control and they are playing about with those dangerous weapons. Whether you are a friend or a foe, they point it out to you (*Laughter*). It is true. It is a very very dangerous situation and I hope, Mr Speaker, that this House will contribute something which will assist the United Nations in carrying out this very difficult task.

I do not believe myself, that troops alone will bring about peace and stability in the Congo. The problem is a political one and I think the solution must also be political. We all criticize the United Nations; I criticize them myself because I am in constant touch with the Secretary-General about this matter; but though we criticize the United Nations, we must all agree that it is the only body which can do such work and that, therefore, it is for us to criticize but at the same time to suggest what we think is the best way of solving the problem.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I hope the House will accept my amendment, so I beg to move.

The Minister of Defence (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the amendment.

This debate affords me an opportunity to inform the House of the role which our Nigerian soldiers have been playing in the Congo. Some of the events which took place in the Congo have been mis-represented in the press. In some cases this had been done deliberately. There are also many anonymous letters which were actually written in Nigeria, but which were purported to have emanated from the Congo, or from Nigerian troops in the Congo.

The Leader of the Opposition, Chief Awolowo, displayed one such letter the other day. That letter was typed in Port Harcourt on one of the machines belonging to a Tobacco

Company. The House will agree with me that this letter is a mischievous document. The aim of which is to give a misleading account about the condition of our troops in the Congo.

From the outset, I would like to say that a soldier differs from a Policeman. He is taught to shoot and to destroy an enemy. Although Nigerian troops were sent to Congo to preserve peace and order and not to fight, they have to defend themselves when attacked. The only way they can do this is to open fire (*Interruptions*) because they do not know how to use batons. Whenever they open fire they have had to do so as a last resort.

Mr Speaker, I would like to say that the part played by Nigerian troops in the Congo has earned them not only prestige and honour as fighting men, but it has helped to place Nigeria in a conspicuous place on the map of the world. Their tactfulness and neutrality have been very well appreciated by the Congolese, U.N. Commander and all other observers. What is more significant is that the Nigerian Soldier understands his job. His work is arduous. He has to live in the bush or in camps even in peace time so as to acquaint himself with all conditions that he may likely encounter in times of actual hostility. The Congo is a vast, empty country over twice the size of Nigeria. It comprises, broadly speaking, the basin of the Congo River. The central part is largely thick jungle and is little developed.

The population is about 13½ million and is split into about 13 strongly defined tribal groups. One of the most powerful and aggressive of these are the Balubas who inhabit the Eastern area, which is where our troops are stationed. They are a warlike people who are not favourably disposed to any form of authority other than their own.

The country is about 1,000 miles across at its widest point and about 1,800 miles from North to South. Distances between inhabited areas are vast and as the road system is poor, communication is mainly by air and the country is plentifully supplied with airfields. It is almost entirely by this method that physical contact is maintained between United Nations Headquarters (ONUC) in Leopoldville and

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Headquarters of 3 Nigerian Brigade in Albertville and by the Headquarters of 3 Brigade with the battalions and detached companies.

At the request of the Secretary-General of the United Nations the Government decided to provide a Contingent from the Royal Nigerian Army. The Contingent, consisting of a brigade headquarters with some administrative services and two battalions of the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment was moved from Kano and Lagos by air under United Nations arrangements between the 8th and the 22nd of November, 1960. 5 QONR, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Aguyi Ironsi, was the first to arrive and was located with its Headquarters at Bukavu, the capital of Kivu province, and companies detached at Goma, Kindu and Kasongo, between a half to one and a half hours flying time away. This battalion was under the direct operational command of HQ ONUC in Leopoldville, some 1,000 miles distant. Subsequently the outlying companies were withdrawn from Kasongo and Kindu. The battalion is now concentrated at Bukavu with one company at Goma.

Headquarter 3 Brigade (Brigadier P. S. Ward) and 4 QONR (Lt.-Col. R. G. Price) moved on 22nd November, 1960. The former went to Albertville in North Katanga, where it is still established, while 4 QONR landed at Kamina and moved up by road to its present station Manono which is also in North Katanga. A company of 4 QONR is detached to Albertville.

The tour of duty for Nigerian Units in the Congo has been set at 6 months. United Nations have been informed that we wish to relieve 5 QONR by 2 QONR commanded by Col. S. A. Ademulegun in May and 4 QONR by 3 QONR commanded by Lt.-Col. Kavanagh, it is hoped in early June.

The Nigerian Contingent, like all other National Contingents in the Congo, is under command of United Nations Headquarter (ONUC). The General Officer Commanding, Royal Nigerian Army does, however, pay frequent visits to the Contingent and supervises various aspects of welfare and administration. The U.K. have provided a liaison flight of RAF "Hastings" aircraft which fly regular schedules between Lagos and our Contingent in the Congo.

The overall mission of the United Nations Military Forces is to assist the Congolese authorities in the maintenance of law and orders and this is done by peaceful means wherever possible. Where it is sometimes not possible then the minimum force has to be employed.

In the fulfilment of this task the U.N. forces have to try to sustain the morale of the civilian population against fear of violence and to protect refugees; to get civil authorities, ANC and Gendarmerie to work together; to safeguard, when required, such things as factories, mines, airfields, railways, power stations, etc., to prevent disorders arising from unemployment, lack of food or failure of public utilities.

The type of military tasks which the Nigerian Contingent has to deal with are:

- (a) establishment of good relations, where possible, with the various local authorities with a view to forestalling trouble;
- (b) maintaining adequate guards on key installations;
- (c) patrolling either with, or without the local gendarmerie in towns;
- (d) long distance patrolling in strength along communications to outlying towns in order to raise civilian morale and discourage internal strife.

The tasks facing the United Nations Forces are complex and difficult. The way in which the Nigerian Contingent has acquitted itself is exemplified by the high praise which it has received from all quarters. On a number of occasions the Supreme Commander of the United Nations Forces (ONUC) has expressed his appreciation of the work which the Nigerian Contingent are doing.

Although by far the greater part of the task of helping to maintain law and order is done by peaceful co-operation with the Congolese forces there have been regrettably but unavoidably, a few instances where the Nigerian Contingent has been obliged to use force as a last resort. On these occasions, although the safety of our Nigerian soldiers was threatened, they showed the greatest forbearance.

attacked by Baluba tribesmen, armed with shot guns and other weapons and were eventually halted by a road block. When some casualties were sustained the Battalion opened fire in self defence. After a short action a parley was held and the column proceeded to Manono without further incident. Nigerian casualties were four wounded. A figure of ten Baluba casualties has been suggested but it is not possible to check this.

A company of 4 QONR was detached to Albertville for train guard duties on trains ferrying stores and refugees in North Katanga. On 2nd January a train was attacked by Baluba tribesmen about 25 miles from Albertville. The tribesmen were armed with shotguns and bows and arrows. The Nigerians were obliged to return the Baluba fire and caused some casualties. There were no Nigerian casualties.

On 3rd January a train was derailed by Balubas who then attacked the Nigerian platoon guarding it. The platoon took up a defensive position which they occupied throughout the night, fighting off a series of attacks by Balubas. They inflicted an unknown number of casualties on their attackers, but suffered none themselves. The following day they withdrew to Albertville.

After the Battalion had been in Manono for some time a force of about 600 of the National Congolese Army of the Stanleyville faction invaded the town on 13th January, 1961. The U.N. Command decided to reinforce the Manono Garrison by air. This was against the advice of the commanders on the spot. An agreement was reached between the Nigerian Commander and the local Balubas and ANC to allow aircraft of the U.N. to land at the airport with Moroccan troops. The aerodrome was secured by the Nigerian Troops, but the aircraft were late in arriving and tension mounted. When the aircraft carrying the Moroccans arrived they were fired on and casualties caused to the troops in the aircraft. The Nigerian Contingent were also attacked and after casualties had been caused the fire was returned. After an exchange lasting about four hours the Congolese asked for a cease fire and joint control of the airfield was resumed. Nigerian casualties were there injured, one seriously, and the ANC suffered about 10 killed and a number wounded.

In December an Austrian Field Hospital (non-combatants) of the U.N. Forces was sent to Bukavu. The Congolese, although they had been warned of their arrival, immediately arrested them on the grounds that they were Belgian parachutists. Lt. Col. Ironsi tried to negotiate with the Provincial President for their release and after a number of promises had been made and broken by the Congolese, he left a platoon (30 soldiers) to ensure the safety of the hospital personnel in the prison. After further negotiations and another promise of release the Congolese soldiers became threatening and the platoon in the prison was overwhelmed. Lt. Col. Ironsi informed the President that he would be obliged to use force. The Congolese opened fire first causing casualties. The Nigeria force replied. After about three hours the Congolese asked for a cease fire and the hospital personnel were released. Casualties to the Nigerian contingent were one soldier killed, two officers and three soldiers wounded. Congolese casualties were heavier.

On the 2nd of February, 1961, an incident occurred in Kindu in Kivu Province. Kindu is under Stanleyville control and is used as a training and transit area for a large number of ANC. Some ANC soldiers set up a road block outside the town and molested two Nigerian officers whose car they stopped. There was a struggle and the officers escaped and were pursued by the ANC. The officers reached the Nigerian lines but were followed by the ANC who opened fire on the building where Nigerian troops were billeted. The fire was returned only when the ANC tried to storm the building. Firing continued throughout the night.

On 3rd February, Lt. Col. Ironsi decided to visit the town and ordered the airfield to be secured. The Nigerian platoon sent to do this was ambushed and the force commander killed. Four other soldiers were also reported missing, but three turned up later. The ANC again attacked the troops in the town, using heavy machine guns and mortars. The company returned the fire and the fight lasted all that day. Attempts were made to parley with the ANC, but they said that they proposed to continue the attack. Firing continued

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throughout the day of the 4th February, and the night of the 4th and the 5th. Brigadier Otu from Headquarters, ONUC and Lt. Col. Ironsi arrived on the 5th from Bukavu and General Lundula of the ANC arrived the same day from Stanleyville. A truce was then arranged.

There were no other Nigerian casualties. ANC casualties in killed and wounded were given by them as being eight dead and 20 wounded. Later, as a result of ONUC policy, the company was withdrawn from Kindu back to Bukavu.

Discipline : Mr Speaker, Sir, discipline of our troops in the Congo has been the subject of misleading reports in the Press and I would like to take this opportunity to place the facts before you.

Shortly after the Bukavu incident, in which the personnel of the Austrian Hospital had to be forcibly released from prison, the very great strain under which the 5th Battalion were living revealed certain weakness in its administration and morale. From these stemmed a slight loss of confidence between a minority of the Nigerian and seconded officers, and a slight weakening of discipline amongst the men.

The subsequent concentration of the whole Battalion at Bukavu, and the greater sense of security resulting from it, coupled with a tightening of discipline and the cross posting of three officers, have rectified what was never more than an isolated and domestic difficulty.

Unfortunately certain sections of the Press magnified the incident out of all proportion to its significance and these reports received world-wide publicity. Contrary to some of these reports, there have been no court-martials resulting from this, or from any other incident in the Congo. A total of seven men have been dismissed from the Service and 10 N.C.Os have been reduced to the ranks, by the Commanding Officer, for disciplinary reasons.

The whole matter is now closed.

The most serious press report appeared in one of the local newspapers of Monday, 6th February, 1961. The facts on the four main allegations made in the article are as follows :—

(a) *Gold mines*.—The mines at Manono are tin mines and not gold mines. They have

not been operated for six months and the report that soldiers have been used to load gold is categorically untrue.

(b) *Defending Belgians against Balubas attacks*.—Such actions as have been fought against the Balubas have been instigated by the Balubas attacking our troops in Military Transport Trains escorted by our troops and on the Airfield at Manono. In no instance, have these attacks been directed against Belgians and in no case has the action of our troops in repelling these attacks been in any way concerned with defending Belgians.

(c) *Guarding Belgian houses*.—The only houses under military guard are those occupied by the military and the guard is necessary not only for security of our soldiers but also for the military stores in their custody. No Belgian houses are guarded by Nigerian troops to protect the Belgians inside them.

(d) *Drinking with Belgians*.—The hotels are used impartially by all races in the Congo including Belgians, United Nations officials, Air Crews and the Gendarmerie, but they are not ever used by British officer serving with the Nigerian Contingent. Specific orders against fraternization of this kind have been issued to military units and are complied with. This allegation also is completely untrue.

Administration and Finance.—The Nigerian Brigade was despatched to the Congo in November as part of the U.N. force under Headquarters, ONUC, at Leopoldville. Every item of stores and equipment (including clothing) was listed and copies sent to the Headquarters, ONUC, and U.N.O., New York. These lists which enumerated many thousands of articles from vehicles, mortars and rifles to hats, belts, boots and buttons are being priced now, and the bill, when complete, will be sent to New York for payment. It is likely to amount to some £600,000 or \$1,700,000.

In theory, the Nigerian Brigade, once it had arrived in the Congo was to have been administered by the Headquarters, ONUC. Realising, however, that it would take time for the Logistics Section in Leopoldville to stock up with vehicles, wireless and other spares peculiar to Nigeria's Army, the Brigade was

sent in with sufficient maintenance spares to last it, under normal Internal Security duty conditions, for three months, and with a reserve of tinned food to last it for ten days. It soon became clear that the theory that Headquarters, ONUC, could maintain our Brigade was not going to work in practice, and since January of this year, increasing demands for spares of all sorts have been placed with our Ordinance Depot in Yaba.

Since being in the Congo, the Brigade has had little or no trouble over food supplies. The Headquarters, ONUC, arranged contracts for fresh rations with the Katanga Government and supplies were flown into Manono and Albertville regularly from Elizabethville. Additionally, a Supply Depot was established at Albertville to take food supplies from East Africa coming in across Lake Tanganyika. This Depot now supplies all our forces from Bukavu to Manono and holds about three months reserve of food.

Before this Supply Depot was set up, there was a requirement for certain items of food peculiar to Nigeria, *viz.*, kola nuts, peppers, palm oil, yams and garri.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : What about oil ?

The Minister of Defence : It is there. To some extent this requirement still exists and every month garri and yams are sent from Nigeria to relieve the monotony of the Congo ration scale. In addition, a seven-day reserve of Nigeria's own tinned food has been built up in Unit locations to give them something to fall back on in case of emergency.

In late February, two R.A.F. Hastings of Transport Command were sent out from U.K. to assist us in maintaining our Brigade. These aircraft fly two schedules per week to Albertville stopping on route at Leopoldville. They are available therefore for use by the Nigerian Police and in fact a considerable quantity of stores and personnel have been moved for them already.

Finally, in the matter of finance, apart from the original bill for the cost of our Brigade in the Congo a monthly bill of stores and equipment supplied to the Brigade is sent to U.N.O. in New York for repayment. We are therefore keeping a careful account of our

expenditure and we confidently expect to be reimbursed at the conclusion of our commitment.

The expense of maintaining the Hastings Service which works out at approximately £5,000 per schedule is met by U.K. Government though the marginal costs for accommodation and transport of R.A.F. crew in Lagos is met from the Military Vote.

The Nigerian Government also assists with the movement of U.N. troops through Kano and Lagos but expenses incurred in this way are also recoverable from U.N.O., New York.

Pay and Allowances : Personnel serving in the Congo remain in receipt of their Nigerian pay and allowances according to their rank and length of service. They receive in addition following :—

(a) A Special Overseas Allowance at the following rate :

	£	s
Brigadiers and Lt. Colonels	1	0 a day
Majors and Captains	..	15 a day
Subaltern officers	..	12 a day
Warrant Officers and Sergeants	..	10 a day
Corporals and Privates	..	5 a day

This allowance is not paid to personnel in the Congo but is credited to their accounts held by the Army Pay Office in Nigeria. It is refundable in full to Nigeria by the United Nations Organisation.

(b) United Nations Daily Allowance. 65 Congolese francs per day for all ranks. This is paid from United Nations Funds to personnel serving in the Congo. It is intended to compensate for the additional cost of living arising from service in a country where the special foods and amenities available to the troops in their home countries cannot be obtained.

(c) *Special Family Allowance* : Whenever a Nigerian soldier is sent on duty away from Nigeria he is expected to pay a monthly contribution for the upkeep of his family. Provided he does so the Government of Nigeria adds from 1s-6d to 2s-9d per day to the soldier's allotment according to his rank, to compensate him for this increased expenses due to family separation. These family allotments are payable direct to the soldier's wives and relatives through local treasuries.

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Leave : The United Nations grants leave to all troops serving in the Congo at the rate of 2½ days for each calendar month of service, subject to units being able to spare men to go on leave without this affecting their operational efficiency. In practice Units are so busy that very few if any men can be spared for leave and United Nations recognise this by authorising a leave allowance of 150 Congolese francs a day (approximately £1) for every day's leave authorised but not taken. This will be paid to our soldiers by the United Nations authorities from the United Nations funds, just before they return to Nigeria.

The majority of our soldiers left for the Congo at short notice and in some cases without leave. On their return it is intended to grant them a minimum of a month's leave to sort out their family affairs.

United Nations Medals : Personnel who complete a period of three months service in the Congo will be awarded a United Nations medal with the clasp "CONGO". The medal is also awarded to personnel who, on account of being wounded in operations, have served there for less than three months.

Welfare : (a) *Mail* : Mail to and from the Congo is free under the United Nations Postal agreement. Now we have the regular maintenance flights provided by the R.A.F. letters are being received in Units within a few days of their despatch from Nigeria. We are most grateful for the splendid co-operation and assistance of the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

(b) *Films* : In addition to films provided by the United Nations authorities at least 4 films per month are sent to the Congo for showing in our Units. These are provided by the Army Kinema Corporation. Shell and BP have also kindly supplied films.

(c) *Newspapers* :—Sufficient copies of the main Nigerian National dailies are sent to the Congo twice weekly. These are donated by the press and the army is extremely grateful. British newspapers are also sent and in addition the Army prints a weekly news sheet for our Congo Units, containing items of Topical and military interest.

(d) *Wireless* :—Wireless sets at one per company are included in the welfare items to be taken by Units sent to the Congo, to enable

them hear up to date news from the outside world and particularly from home.

(e) *Record Players* :—These are provided by the United Nations to companies on arrival in the Congo. Records have been purchased and sent as required from Nigeria.

(f) *N.B.C. Radio* :—30 minute taped radio programmes are being sent twice weekly, for playing on Radio Congo and Radio Bukavu and these are heard by our troops. There is also a weekly Forces Programme which is played in Nigeria for the benefit of the families, and friends, of these in the Congo.

(g) *Sports and Games* :—Sports equipment was taken by all Units in sufficient quantities and has been augmented as required. Indoor games have been donated by a number of the Commercial firms in Lagos and sent to the troops who are very grateful for them.

(h) *Families* :—Those remaining in Unit locations in Nigeria are under the constant care of the Unit Officers left in command of rear details for this very purpose.

With your permission, Mr Speaker, I would in conclusion like to read the following message which the Secretary-General, Mr Dag Hammarskjöld, sent to the Prime Minister last January :

"I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that I have received from my representative in the Republic of Congo messages which bear witness to the excellent service which the Nigerian troops are rendering in the preservation of order in the areas in which they are stationed. Many lives and limbs were saved by their action on many occasions.

It gives me great pleasure to take this opportunity to express to Your Excellency my deep appreciation of the assistance given by your Government and by admiration of the loyal and courageous manner in which the Nigerian troops perform their duties".

There is no greater testimony to the good work that has been and is being done by our Nigerian Contingent in the Congo under the auspices of the United Nations and I am sure that I am expressing the feeling of this Honourable House when I say that we are proud of their achievements in the Congo ; that this country owes them a debt of gratitude and that they have the fullest national support.

Sir, I beg to support.

Amendment proposed.

Chief A. Rosiji (Egba East): I am in complete agreement, Mr Speaker, with the hon. Prime Minister when he said that this is a very important subject-matter. It is therefore a great pity that our line of thought should have been for so long interfered with by the Minister of Defence.

Members of this Honourable House from all sides of this Chamber have given expression to their appreciation of the work that has been done and that is being done by our Forces in the Congo and I think that if the hon. the Minister of Defence required a reassurance and if that was why he made a long, not strictly relevant speech, I can give him the assurance that we all appreciate the work which they are doing there and he should stop making long speeches any more.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the subject-matter of this Motion concerns, strictly speaking, the activities of the United Nations Organisation. I would like to say first of all that I disagree with the amendment that has been proposed by the hon. the Prime Minister and I support the original Motion. I shall proceed to give my reasons for so doing. This matter is a very serious one which had been debated without emotion. We in Nigeria have a great responsibility in the matter of the Congo and our weight in the United Nations must therefore, especially in the matter of the Congo, be felt.

The United Nations should be blamed for many of the things that happened in the Congo. I think that it is true to say that the United Nations has failed in the Congo but it must be emphasized that the failure of the United Nations is inherent in its very constitution. United Nations is a collection of nations which have gone into this association freely for collective organisation but at the same time each one maintaining its individuality and none of them can be forced into anything. The United Nations has not got the type of power which is necessary to carry out the sort of operations that are necessary in the Congo and I think that apart from the legal power which it has not got, it also has not got the moral power because law is one thing, active practice may be another thing.

It seems to me that the world so far is not ready for the type of organisation that will be

able on the world basis to put into effect the type of operations that are necessary to establish quickly, law and order in the situation such as exists in the Congo.

I have not sought to blame any particular member of the United Nations. I think it is unnecessary so to do, because as things are to-day, every nation there, especially the big nations, are all competing for power and for control of the United Nations. And the reason why I do not blame them is that the Organisation allows something like that.

When the Members of the United Nations get to a stage when they can suppress their own private and personal interests to the interests of the world as a whole then we shall get things going much better than they do to-day. What happens to the United Nations itself is what is reflected in the Congo. It seems to me that the Members of the United Nations have not gone to the Congo purely for the interests of the people of the Congo. What they have done is to carry the cold war into the Congo.

I think that the first mistake that the United Nations made was to recognise Kasavubu as the man who should represent the Congo in the United Nations. I think that was the first mistake they made. It may be true—and this may be open to argument—that Kasavubu is the Head of State. That is a legal matter, but what is the point of a man being Head of State when he has no following, and I think that if the United Nations had taken cognizance not only of the law but of the practical situation and they should have not recognised Kasavubu at the time they did. What they could have done was to have called a round-table conference of all those who call themselves leaders in the place and settle the matter between them instead of recognising one faction as the faction to be reckoned with in the Congo.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that the hon. Prime Minister himself has agreed that the United Nations have done wrong in the Congo. The Prime Minister himself said that he himself blamed the United Nations and it seems to me, therefore, that he himself has admitted, even though indirectly, that the United Nations have failed in the Congo. And, therefore, that part of the Motion which regrets the failure of the United Nations should be allowed to stand.

[CHIEF ROSIJI]

Now, that the United Nations have failed in the Congo is no reason for saying that we should discard the United Nations. Far from it, because I do not see anything which can replace the United Nations to-day, and, in particular, because for countries like ours—countries which are not strong powers—The United Nations is the hope for small countries. Indeed, we who are the small powers, if the United Nations exists, we are the hope for the big powers. Therefore, my contention is that the cause of the failure of the United Nations in the Congo is inherent in its weakness.

The United Nations was unable to take a firm line in the Congo. It seems to me, however, that we who belong to the African Continent have a major role to play in the Congo, and it seems to me also that things are now going in the right direction.

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

But those of us who are called upon to do anything in the Congo should beware and make sure that we do not fall into the same temptation as the Big Powers in the United Nations have fallen. If we go there for our personal aggrandizement we shall make the position in the Congo worse than ever before; if we go there to take side with any body, with any faction in the Congo we shall make the position worse than ever before, and, therefore, it is clear to me that the United Nations should be reinforced in the Congo. I welcome the decision that has been taken by the Security Council that force should be used, if necessary, in the Congo.

I humbly beg to disagree with the hon. Prime Minister when he said that, after all, the Congo is a sovereign country and, therefore, the United Nations cannot just go there and do whatever it likes. I beg to disagree with that because out of self-confession, the leaders of the Congo have given out that the Congo can no longer maintain its sovereignty. All the factions have made applications to the United Nations to come and help them because they are unable to fulfil the functions which a sovereign country should fulfil. I think that in the interests of peace, law and order remedy by force is necessary in the Congo in order to be able to bring peace ultimately to reign in the place. If there is no force which can be respected there will be disorder in the place; if there is no authority who can be respected

there will be disorder in the place. All sorts of prophets will be coming up; all sorts of armies will be coming up. All these armies should be disbanded and the United Nations should go there to take charge of the Congo with a view to restoring peace, law and order in the Congo.

I think, Sir, that as much as I also agree with the hon. Prime Minister that the solution in the Congo is a political one, I disagree that it is only a political one. It is both a political one, as well as a military one, because before you can see peace and politics flourish in the place you must maintain law and order, and you can only do that by military action. If not by action, by show of military power which can be used against anybody who is in the wrong. It does not matter from what faction that person comes.

Finally, Sir, I would like to say that I do not like the amendment of the Prime Minister to that part of the original Motion seeking that we should press that our own solution should be adopted in the Congo. We know that the Security Council and the United Nations are the organisations that will actually bring a solution to the country. We do not want to go there on our own to give them a solution, but, after all, we are a member of the United Nations; we should press our own views with the Security Council.

I think it is high time that we in Nigeria should have an opinion on a matter and press it and try to carry the Security Council and the United Nations with us. I think that is all that this Motion seeks. My contention is that we have the right to press our own views on the Security Council and on the United Nations and to hope that if these views are reasonable and are sufficiently hard-pressed, they will be accepted by the Security Council, unless we have no confidence ourselves in what we are saying.

I think, Sir, that the political solution which the Prime Minister has in mind—even though he was too shy to express it—is that these leaders should be called to a round table conference. I also think that the political solution is that these leaders should be called to a round table conference—all of them. There should be no discrimination against anybody. It is going to be hard work because a lot of bones have been broken, but it will be a

job worthwhile if it can be successfully done. They should be called to a round table conference and a compromise solution should be arrived at.

What we have in our Constitution to-day, and which is working well, is a compromise, and we cannot do anything but compromise, especially in a turbulent place like the Congo. Indeed it seems to me that that compromise can be nothing but a federal constitution for the Congo in which the various areas which find it difficult to come together to-day, can express themselves in their various areas and everybody will be satisfied. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support this Motion.

M. Aminu Kano (Kano East): Mr Speaker, Sir, in contributing to this Debate one has to go a little out of the way into the history of the Republic of the Congo. It was a Belgian colony for over eighty years. During those colonial days no political rights were given to the people of the Congo. Then, suddenly, political rights came and independence was granted.

The new government demanded a complete evacuation of Belgian officers in the Army and the Civil Service from the country. Suddenly intrigues against the new government were started by the Belgians. The Congo is a very big and rich country, with enormous resources mainly held by the Americans, the French, the Belgians and the British.

The Congolese Army rebelled and Katanga, led by Tshombe, broke away to form a State of Katanga. Peace, law and order were threatened and a complete disintegration of the Republic seemed imminent. Lumumba and Kasavubu asked for United Nations intervention and the whole international conspiracy and intrigue then started.

The Congo Republic was then accepted by the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations as a Member of the United Nations, but its representatives were not seated.

This threat of disintegration of the Republic, followed by the arrest and detention of Patrice Lumumba and the expulsion of the Russian Diplomats, heightened the trouble in the Congo and brought trouble, not only in that unfortunate Republic, but in the General Assembly, the Political Committee and the Security Council of the United Nations.

In an effort to end the Congo crisis an eight-Power draft resolution was submitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations calling (1) for the seating of the Congolese Delegation; (2) for the convening of the Congolese Parliament and (3) for the recognition of the Central Government. But while a debate was going on in the United Nations the General Assembly had, at the same time, appointed a Reconciliation Commission whose main task was to investigate the circumstances which led to the disturbances in the Congo and to report back to the United Nations.

In the light of the setting up of this Commission, therefore, the eight Powers (Afro-Asian in composition) decided to adjourn debating this Resolution until the Commission had done its work. This was why the Western Powers, led by the United States and the United Kingdom, came out in their true colours as a stumbling block to ending the Congo crisis.

The United States invited Kasavubu as a guest of President Eisenhower. At the same time, eleven Congolese Army officers were invited by the United States Military Department and were afforded the opportunity to inspect Army Headquarters and Military installations in the United States, in the United Kingdom and other countries. Mobutu's gangs and untrained brutes were equipped with modern Belgian and American weapons. They got regular payment, even though the Congo Exchequer did not possess a penny since the breakdown in July 1960.

Curiously enough, Sir, the United Kingdom and the United States opposed the Motion for a postponement of the debate of the eight-Power Resolution, and when the question was put to the vote, the U.S. and the U.K. and all their Allies were defeated. That was the beginning of the crisis. There was a big uproar in the General Assembly, as well as jubilation, especially by the Afro-Asian countries, but much more was to come.

On 8th November, 1960, Mr Kasavubu of the Congo appeared before the General Assembly and, during the course of his address, he submitted the names of his nominees to serve as representatives of the Republic of the Congo and, on the same day, he sent a letter to the President of the Assembly in which he gave

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a list of the proposed names of his nominees. The Credentials Committee, which is dominated by the delegates of the Western Powers, met on 9th November, finished their work on 10th November and submitted their report immediately to the General Assembly, recommending very strongly the seating of the Congolese Delegation.

The Afro-Asian Group raised a Point of Order that since the Debate to seat the Delegation was postponed until the return of the Reconciliation Commission, no further discussion could be continued. Here I quote the words of the Vice-Chairman of the Nigerian Delegation who made every effort to persuade the American Delegation and the United Kingdom Delegation to see to it that the Debate on the seating of the Congolese Delegation was postponed until the return of the Reconciliation Committee. This is what he said, Sir.

"I do not wish to go into the details of the position of Head of State of the Republic of Congo. Of course, many Delegations have categorically stated that they do realise and accept the fact that President Kasavubu is undisputed Head of State of the Congo. We, too, share the same view. I shall not dispute it. In fact we never did. On the other hand, in view of the fact that a Reconciliation Commission has been set up, we felt that the seating of any delegates at this time must be detrimental to the work of the Reconciliation Commission, no matter how valid their credentials might be, since this act would jeopardise the work of the Commission. It was this feeling, therefore, that made us conclude that the best we could do then was to withdraw from the discussion until receipt of the report of the Reconciliation Commission, as we did on the Ghana-Guinea Resolution, until such time as the Commission had come to report. However, we abstain from voting for obvious reasons."

Without doubt we did this with the best intentions and you will see, Sir, that while an effort was being made by the Afro-Asian Group to allow a Reconciliation Commission to go to the Congo and report back to the United Nations, and when they themselves drafted a Resolution calling for the seating of the

Congolese Delegation, they did so in the interests of Congolese unity. And then when they moved a postponement of the Debate, the United States insisted that there must be a vote and, at last, a vote was taken and the postponement was adopted. But while this postponement was adopted there was a final blow which came on the 19th when Ceylon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Morocco, United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia submitted a carefully-worded Resolution to bring about an end to the problem of the Congo and this Resolution in one of its paragraphs says that it was calling for the immediate release of all political prisoners under detention, more particularly members of the civilian Government of the Congo and officials of Parliament and others enjoying Parliamentary immunity.

It also considered that the United Nations must henceforth implement its mandate fully to prevent a breach of peace and security, to restore and maintain law and order and the inviolability of persons including United Nations diplomatic personnel and property in accordance with the Charter, and take urgent measures, to appeal to the people of the Congo, in meeting their most pressing need. It also ordered the immediate reconvening of Parliament and the taking of all necessary protective measures by the United Nations including custodian duties.

About the reconvening of Parliament, western diplomats argued that as the people of the Congo had been divided into factions, and as they were warriors, if Parliament was allowed to be reconvened, the Members would, no doubt, fight in Parliament. Now, Sir, supposing the Members met in Parliament and fought? What about it? What about the Italian Parliament, the Japanese Parliament, and the French Parliament? Does it then mean that when the French people had a fight in their Parliament, that was no fight? When there was riot and shooting of guns in the Italian Parliament, that was no fight? When Police had to break into the Japanese Parliament to restore law and order, and when the Speaker was even hit with a chair, all that was good, because those concerned were the Japanese, the Italians and the French; but when we wanted to reconvene the Parliament in the Congo, the argument was that there would be a fight in the Parliament of the Congo (*Cries of Shame, shame*).

Sir, this resolution was supported by all the Afro-Asian countries and everybody was happy that the only answer was to reconvene Parliament, to expell all Belgian personnel from the Congo, to release all political prisoners of all tribes; and then the ground would have been prepared for a reconciliation of the warring factions in the Congo. This is exactly what the resolution sought to do and everybody was happy. But what happened? The next morning, there was a draft resolution suddenly submitted by a two-power commission, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States. This draft resolution was very insulting for it asked the United Nations to help Kasavubu to reconvene Parliament. It also said that it recognised that certain aforementioned obligations and responsibilities were still the United Nations concern, and that all necessary action should be taken to ensure the continuation and support of the United Nations operations in the Congo in accordance with the resolution, and so on and so forth.

It also requested the Secretary-General to continue with the greatest effort to ensure that no foreign military personnel were introduced into the Congo or acted in violation of the resolution of the Security Council No. 1474B. But by that time, three resolutions had been passed in the General Assembly, the Security Council and in the Political Committee asking Belgium to withdraw its troops from the Congo. The Belgians refused to withdraw; the Belgians were insolent to the United Nations, and yet there was no mention of Belgium, and when we made an effort to persuade the Mover of the Motion to include Belgium because Belgium was the obvious aggressor, the United States resisted. I remember that one of the delegates had to go to Mr Wordsworth, the United States Head of Delegation, to beg him that in the name of peace, and in the name of security, we wanted him to help us to see our resolution passed because the Congo question was first, an international question, secondly, an Afro-Asian question, and thirdly, an American question.

But what happened, the United States man got up and made a very powerful speech against our resolution, and thereby went about fishing in troubled waters. When it was

put to vote, our resolution was defeated, but so many nations were ashamed of their role and therefore abstained, and we consequently defeated the United Kingdom-United States resolution by one vote (*Applause*).

I believe, Sir, that the United Nations may be wrong but at the same time, I must say that the pillars of the United Nations are those people, who in an effort to survive, and when drafting the United Nations Charter, did not think in terms of Africa. They thought that the world would be divided into two, first-class citizens and second-class citizens. The first-class citizens are the Europeans and the second-class citizens are the blackmen. No provisions were therefore made for us in the Charter, and up till to-day, the attitude of the Western Powers to African groups is to play with or even ignore anything pertaining to our welfare. In any matter concerning us, you will find, Sir, that they introduce politics and cold war.

I am afraid that the Western Powers and the Eastern bloc will equally stand condemned and unpardoned in the bar of world opinion. Each side be it the Russians, the Americans or British, is working to gain prestige and victory over the other. They are not seeking the interest of the Congolese people; but the tragedy of the whole United Nations intervention in the Congo is that the Afro-Asian nations remain divided simply because America and Russia are enemies.

To-day, Sir, the common question is: who finances the Mobutu army? Speculation, which amounts to fact is that the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States, the Belgians, and some quiet Americans finance Mobutu Army. Up till to-day, in spite of past resolutions from all the good ladies and gentlemen of the world, Belgian military personnel and civil servants have bluntly refused to leave the Congo. In fact, there are to-day not less than 1,400 Belgian officers in Katanga working with the Katanga Government, while all the army sections in Katanga and the rest of the Congo, (except in the Kivu Province,) are led by Belgian officers.

United Nations intervention succeeded only in so far as bringing of food, medical supplies, and offering some protection to defenceless men, women and children are concerned; but the restoration of the political

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integrity, peace and happiness of the people of the Congo has proved hopelessly ineffective simply because the big powers of the world to-day—the United States, the United Kingdom, France and the U.S.S.R. are liars, who pay lip-service to the institution of justice, democracy and the maintenance of human society.

What is happening in the Congo to-day is a lesson to all of us. But our disappointment should not lead us to frustration and indifference, but serve as a new window through which we can see farther on the road to the peaceful settlement of African and international problems.

The United Nations is indispensable, and Nigeria has a part to play in the restoration of the geographical and political integrity of the Congo, especially in view of the fact that she has gained the confidence of the United Nations delegations and is, therefore, in the best position to press for the implementation of the formula suggested by the Prime Minister in the course of his address to the General Assembly in October last year.

Sir, I beg to support. (*Loud Applause*).

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Amendment ably moved by the Prime Minister. I also rise to support the views expressed by Mr Ukegbu, Dr Ezera and Mallam Aminu Kano. The Congo problem can be likened to a big company, with big capital, big shares, with directors, managing directors, managers, clerks, *et cetera*. Now, this big company belongs to an infant, a ward. Certainly, the directors, the managers, and the workers of the company decide to resign and to leave the company to the care of the infant who is the real owner. Before the directors and the workers left the company there was no proper handing-over. The treasury was empty, the managing directors resigned, the managers left, the workers left and they all left this company in the hand of this infant which is the ward.

The aim of the directors and the managers of the company is that after leaving, although the infant will remain the nominal owner of the company, they will in fact wield power and influence from behind the scene. That was exactly what happened in the Congo.

Now, the Belgian imperialists, with all their wisdom and intuition, knew that the Congolese were not ready for independence, but they thought of giving them nominal independence. At the same time, when they are unable to carry on the burden and the duties of independence, they would have no choice but to recall them from their country and vest the Congolese people with nominal powers as Ministers and Prime Ministers, they would in fact have the say and wield the real power.

My contention is supported from the wording of the Congolese Constitution which says that even matters of interpretation should have to be referred to the Belgian Parliament in Brussels and that, unless there is a two-thirds majority supporting a particular Bill, it cannot become Law and, also, giving the President of the State of the Congo, power to dismiss the Prime Minister. These are facts to support my contention.

Mallam Aminu Kano has just alleged that the seating of the Kasavubu delegation at the United Nations was wrong. I think that was the greatest folly, the greatest blunder the United Nations made during the whole crisis. This blunder must be placed wholly and squarely at the doors of America, that is, United States of America, Britain, France, and Belgium. They committed these atrocities.

What was the issue of the seating of the Kasavubu delegation in the United Nations? What happened was that before the crisis, before Lumumba and Kasavubu disagreed, Kasavubu and Lumumba signed the letter of credentials of their delegation to the United Nations, and these people were dispatched to New York. But, meanwhile, before the delegation was seated they went apart. Albert Kalonji in Kasai Province who is, of course, the Deputy Leader to Kasavubu, had declared his own separate state. The relationship between Kasavubu and Lumumba got strained; but meanwhile the delegation, whose credentials were endorsed by Kasavubu and Lumumba had not been seated at the United Nations.

Kasavubu then stabbed Lumumba in the back. Dispatched another delegation to the United Nations, signed their letter of credentials and got it counter-signed by Bomboko, the Foreign Minister. These two credentials came before the Credentials Committee of the

United Nations and they held that the two were valid and the proper thing to do under the circumstances was not to seat either the first delegation, whose credentials were signed by Kasavubu and Lumumba, or the second delegation, whose credentials were signed by Bomboko and Kasavubu. I thought that was quite reasonable and proper.

You might then wonder—Why did the United Nations, backed by America, England, Belgium, and France then go out of their way and seat the Kasavubu and Bomboko delegation? When Kasavubu went to the United Nations, as Mallam Aminu Kano rightly said, the Credentials Committee again was reconvened and it was hopelessly in favour of the American resolution, the Western Powers' Resolution. A Committee which ruled that the two credentials were of equal validity now ruled again—overruling themselves—forgetting the principle of what they call *stare decisis* in Latin! They now said that the credentials of the Kasavubu/Bomboko delegation was valid and that they should be seated at the United Nations.

That decision violates the principles of membership of the United Nations as it is in the Charter which says—"The members of the United Nations should be representatives of governments, and not of heads of states". I have never heard it in the history of the United Nations where the United Nations seated the delegates of a head of state and not that of the head of a government. Therefore, the whole trouble in the Congo was caused not only by the Congolese themselves. It is true that they are inexperienced, it is true that Lumumba made mistakes; but it is also true that for economic reasons—and I will develop my arguments further on this particular point and cite instances—but for economic reasons the United States of America, England, France and Belgium agreed to support Kasavubu.

Many people do not know that a lot of the companies—as a matter of fact, all the companies—in the Congo are not owned only by the Belgians, but that these companies are also owned jointly by American interests, Belgian interests, French interests and British interests. In fact there is ample evidence to that effect. The most important thing I want every Member to realise is that in the present century, there is no longer a political scramble for Africa but an economic scramble for Africa.

Each European power cannot survive without Africa. They need our raw materials, they want to carve out an area of political influence for themselves and also they want markets to sell their goods.

I will refer, Mr Speaker, to a speech made by Mr Nixon who was the Republican Presidential candidate at the last United States election. He was speaking in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and he said the following—

"It must be recognised that from the political point of view the European powers in Africa, including Britain and France, are irrevocably stirred with their political past. America has no such past. It is that fact that can make us the heir to Africa's future" He goes on—

"I consider it necessary to make the point that, from now on, America should go forward prepared to strengthen its position in Africa, having in mind this purpose; it goes forward with increasing its diplomatic missions there, sending there its most experienced political and economic experts, creating new information centres and education centres and giving an incentive to the flow of considerable amounts of private capital. American interests in the future are so great as to justify us in no hesitation even to assist the departure of the colonial powers from Africa. If we can win native opinion by this process, the future of America in Africa may be assured".

That is Mr Nixon, as American Vice-President, speaking to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

An hon. Member : Kennedy is better ?

Mr Akinjide : Even Kennedy is not better, they are all the same. If you say that Kennedy is better, what in your opinion does he want to do with his so called African Corps. The Corps he is sending here? They are all for political purposes. My contention is that the interests of the Western Powers in Africa, particularly in the Congo, are two—

(1) Economy, and

(2) To create an area of influence for themselves.

And again, Sir, I will refer you to the address of one of our Federal Ministers, that is hon. Waziri Ibrahim, M.P. which he made after his return from India at the World Health Organi-

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sation Conference and, I think, this is very important. It was in the form of a press release and was given to Members. I quote—

“In the World Health Organisation, political issues inevitably arise and one can easily see the trend of debates taking the form found in the United Nations debate; the Eastern bloc, bent on spreading its socialist ideology to all parts of the world and on lessening economic exploitation of underdeveloped countries; the Western bloc bent on spreading and retaining its own form of democracy and retaining its economic holding in the underdeveloped and independent countries; and the neutrals, not yet deeply committed to either of the two ideologies but concentrating on self-development, taking advantage of the suitable situation arising as a result of the conflict between the two former blocs, vividly coming into the scene. It is a situation which cannot be helped until one of the dominant political ideologies succeeds in winning an overwhelming majority in all parts of the world”.

Now, that is the view of one of our Ministers.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have tried to say all these things because I do not think it is fair to pin all the blame for the tragedy in the Congo on the Congolese alone. It is the Western powers and the Eastern powers who imported the cold war into the Congo. The lesson to be learnt from the Congo is that we should beware of the way we hobnob with foreign powers, particularly the Western powers who have economic interests in Africa. That is why many of us are angry with Lord Head, who is interfering almost daily in our internal affairs only for economic reasons and who wants to poke his nose in our affairs.

When the debate was going on in this House on the Anglo-Nigerian Defence Agreement, Lord Head had the effrontery to make a press statement supporting one view or the other, which was very wrong. We also know the activities of the commercial section of the United Kingdom High Commission in Lagos, how they are interfering in the employment of overseas staff, in our trade with British and in other matters in which they have no right to poke their nose. I hope, Sir, that our Government, which hitherto has been a great success,

will learn a lesson from the Congo and keep the foreign powers, especially the Western powers, at an arms length.

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

Mr J. U. Udenyi (Enyong North): Mr Speaker, Sir, without mincing words I must say that the death of Lumumba is a noble one. (*Interruption*). Yes, his death was a noble death. Although he is dead, he has made a name for himself. The whole world will ever remember the name of Lumumba.

Before I support the amended Motion, Mr Speaker, I must first of all thank the mover of the first Motion because the Motion is sensational. I must appeal to this honourable House on one point. I am appealing to our able Prime Minister that this House should give financial aid to Lumumba's wife and children. (*Hear, hear*). It is very important indeed. That is the only comfort they will have from this country.

Again, we must also congratulate our soldiers for the noble role they have played in the Congo, and adequate allowance should be paid to their children and wives to encourage them. If somebody is there serving in the Congo and his wife and children are here suffering at home, he will not be happy, and unless the wives and children of these soldiers are properly looked after by this Government if you ask anyone to go there in the future he must be reluctant to go.

I need not waste the time of this House, but it is true that the role played by the United Nations in the Congo is very bad. However the crime has been committed and we cannot now help it, but we do not expect henceforth to see such things again.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, I must support the Motion with a maximum of emphasis.

M. Bala Muhammadu Dutsinma (Yandaka): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion as amended by the hon. Prime Minister. Although we understand the difficult situation which the United Nations had to face in the Congo, we must say that we here in Nigeria are not satisfied with the role which the United Nations has been playing in the Congo.

Before I go any further, Sir, I must say that the United Nations has something to its credit in the Congo affair. The mere presence of the United Nations in the Congo has done a great deal of good because we know that were it not for the presence of the United Nations in the Congo the sovereignty of the Congo itself would have been imperilled in one way or the other by the imperialists. And were it not for the presence of the United Nations in the Congo the greedy foreign powers would have made the Congo their battle ground to serve their own purposes.

Although we appreciate the respect which the United Nations has for the sovereignty of the Congo, yet she should not have played the role of a spectator in the Congo. The United Nations which is the supreme body towards which all nations look to solve world problems, should not have stood by and watched with their own eyes the killing of Patrice Lumumba who, from the democratic point of view, was the legitimate Prime Minister of the Congo.

If there is any good which the United Nations did in the Congo it is the appointment of the Reconciliation Commission. We only hope that the United Nations will try to repair some of the damage they have done in the Congo by complying with the report of the Reconciliation Commission. I think that as far as Nigeria is concerned there is nothing we can do in the Congo except through the United Nations. So it is the duty of our Permanent Representative in the United Nations to see that the report of the Conciliation Commission is complied with by the United Nations.

Sir, I beg to support.

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

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

Motion, as amended, put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House takes note of the efforts of the United Nations Organisation to restore order and stability in the Congo and asks the Federal Government to direct all its attention to the continued adoption, by the Security Council of the General Assembly of the U.N.O., of measures designed to bring about peace and order in the Congo.

Mr Speaker : Order, order. It is now one o'clock and under Standing Orders the sitting is suspended until three o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.20 p.m.

EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF TRUNK ROADS

Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper, That this House appreciates the activities of the Federal Government in improving Federal trunk roads in the Regions, and calls upon it to make a thorough economic road survey of the entire Federation and extend the Federal roads by taking over some important trunk roads from the Regional Governments.

Sir, this Motion is not controversial and it speaks for itself. It has two principal aims. The first is to thank the Federal Government for the good work they have done in the improvement of the Federal trunk roads in the regions. Secondly, it is to call upon the Government and to encourage it to continue this good work by taking over some of the trunk B roads and converting them into trunk A roads.

The taking over of trunk B roads will give the Regional Governments a good opportunity to take over some of the smaller roads from the District Councils and Native Administrations and convert them into trunk B roads.

Hon. Members will agree with me that there are two principal amenities which this House has been calling upon the Government to extend to the people in the rural areas. The first and principal one is the extension of roads to the people in the rural areas. The second one is the provision of telephone and postal facilities. In my own opinion, Sir, I feel that roads are the most important things that a poor village farmer can benefit from. If there is a good road, a poor farmer can travel more easily to sell his crops.

There are four categories of roads in the Federation: trunk A roads, being maintained only by the Federal Government; trunk B roads, purely maintained by the Regional

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Governments; inter-district or inter-provincial roads, being maintained on a fifty-fifty basis or by whatever agreement between the Regional Governments and the Native Authority or County Council concerned; and district or local roads, maintained only by the Native Authority or Local Council concerned, in addition to other types of rural roads.

Trunk A roads are roads of inter-regional importance, forming the framework of the road system in the country. They are also the major roads connecting the sea ports with the Regional headquarters. We have two examples of this type of road: the road connecting Port Harcourt with Enugu *via* Umuahia, Okigwi and Awgu; another is the road connecting Lagos with Ibadan. They come under this class.

Trunk B roads are the roads whose purpose is principally of regional or inter-provincial significance. They are mostly maintained by the Regional Government, and in some cases partly by the Government and partly by the Native Authority or County Council concerned. The contribution of the Native Authority solely depends on its financial capacity to pay.

The roads being maintained partly by the Government and partly by the Native Authority may be called provincial roads. They are mainly of district importance in the area concerned. The fourth class of roads are the district or local roads which are only of primary importance to the Native Authority and Local Council concerned. Such roads are being maintained only by the Local Council or the Native Administration without any financial support from the Regional Government.

There is one fundamental and hidden fact about this Motion. It calls for justice, which is worthwhile. For many years, all hon. Members have criticised and called upon the Government to improve and extend the Federal trunk roads to the people in the rural areas. It is, therefore, our honest duty to thank the Government if it has done a good job. We have to make observations and criticise the Government when it does something which is not fair. I think it is only just. I therefore thank the Government, particularly the Minister of Works for the amount of good work already done on the Federal roads, and

for what they are still doing. The Federal roads are easily recognised by the layman in the street because of their beauty and manner of construction.

It is most interesting to see the Oji River-Awgu-Okigwi road newly completed by the Dumez Contractors with a wonderful speed. The Onitsha-Enugu-Nsukka-Makurdi road and the Aba to Port Harcourt roads are the best in the Region if not in the country. The Government should be congratulated on providing the funds for the construction and tarring of the roads and on giving them to efficient and capable contractors. To tar roads is one important thing, but to maintain them is another difficult thing.

We have a lot of African contractors who complain that they are not considered in the road scheme. I just want to suggest one thing. I know that African contractors have no funds or machinery and plant to compete with European firms. That is a living fact. But I want to suggest one thing. I will appeal to each and every hon. Member just to consider this point seriously. Let us provide one avenue. I suggest that the maintenance of roads could be given on contract to some of the African contractors, because they can do it cheaply. (*Interruptions*) I will prove this to you.

Mr Speaker, with your permission, I will just read a certain section in the Report on the Highways of Nigeria, page 21. This is of recent publication. "Maintenance of roads: road maintenance expenditure, The proper maintenance of the road system is one of the most important duties which the Public Works Department is entrusted with. The cost is high, amounting to a total of £393,272 in the year 1949-50". In the year 1960-61 I hope this figure had increased by up to 50 per cent, according to these statistics.

"Government-maintained roads, including trunk A roads—bituminous surface roads: mileage 906 miles, maintenance £99 per mile in 1950 and now £150 per mile as it is.

"Gravel or earth surface roads: 6,159 miles in 1949 costing £26 per mile in 1949, and now up to £84 per mile.

"Native Administration roads, including trunk B roads—bituminous surface: 20 miles costing £150 per mile, and now costing £225 per mile."

Sir, I show this because I am definitely sure that the Government will try to quench the agitation of the contractors by giving them this accommodation. I hope they can do it cheaply, to spend up to £200 per mile. If we have 100 miles, you know exactly what it is. We have teachers and students of mathematics here who could simply work it out, I cannot do it.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government is worthy of praise when one relates road economic programme by the British administrators as from 1945 backwards with what it became from 1952, the date when our people took over responsibility. In 1945, the Federal Trunk A Road was 4,175 miles. A vote of £5,000,300 was made for road maintenance and bridge work for 13 years, Economic Programme, which means that £5,000,000 was provided between 1945 and 1958. But when our people took over responsibility, the Government was able to spend over £4 million on new roads and bridges, including maintenance, in 1956-57, as against £5 million voted previously. In 1957-58 the Government spent £8,662,000 against £5,000,000 by the British. So, the Government was able to spend in one year more money than the British administrators voted for 13 years. Is that not an achievement, hon. Gentlemen?

Mr Speaker, Sir, in 1945, the Trunk Roads covered 4,000 miles approximately, but to-day, it is over 6,000 miles. Under the Schedule from this Economic Report, the length of tarred roads in the Northern Region is 807 miles, in the Western Region 668 miles, in the Eastern Region 335 miles, and in Lagos 14½ miles.

An hon. Member : When?

Mr Chukwu : I am talking about 1949. And now I include Cameroons, according to the Report. Cameroons then, 84 miles. Gravel or earth road—Northern Region 3,368 miles, Western Region 25 miles, Eastern Region 334 miles, Southern Cameroons 390 miles. The figures show that there were over 2,000 miles of road extension since our own people took over responsibility from the British administrators. In 1956-7, the following were the roads which were considered by the Federal Government and were placed for

reconstruction and improvement: Zaria-Kano Road, Yola-Bamenda, Yola-Takum, Uba-Bana, Gombe-Kumo, Ijebu-Ode-Benin, and Calabar-Mamfe.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I shall request the Government to take over the following important Trunk B Roads in the Eastern Region: the road between Onitsha and Owerri, *via* Ahoada to Port Harcourt is a very important road in the Eastern Region (*Hear, hear.*) If this road is taken over, I am sure that it will give the Eastern Regional Government the chance to expand their road facilities to the people in the rural areas by taking over some of the District and Provincial roads.

There is one other important road in the Eastern Region. It is a short road, Sir, about 32 miles long. This road is a rural road connecting Agwu, Nnewe and Enugu. This forms the shortest first class road between Enugu and Port Harcourt. This new road provides the shortest route to Port Harcourt, as I have said to Aba, Oron, Owerri, Calabar; in other words, throughout the whole of the commercial centres and towns in the southern end of the Eastern Region.

Sir, I feel that if the Federal Government would take over some of these roads, it would give the Eastern Regional Government the chance to expand their road facilities to the people in the rural areas. The same thing could be arranged in the North. The North is so large and some of the roads could be taken over so that amenities could as well be extended to the people of the rural areas.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Aba) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second this Motion. I would like to say that the Motion before the House has three aspects, the first of which is to praise the Federal Government for its road policy, secondly to ask the Minister in charge to prepare an extensive economic road policy for the whole Federation, and thirdly, Sir, to ask the Federal Government to take over some of the Trunk B Roads, in order to make it possible for local Authorities and Native Authorities to expand their own road programmes.

In doing this, Sir, I have to remark that about 1953 we had under road Class A, 3,496 in the North, 672 in the West and 710 miles of

[MR ENEH]

road in the Eastern Region. Road Class B, that is Regional Governments' roads, 4,232 in the North, 1,032 in the West, and 536 miles in the East. With regard to Native Authority and Local Government roads, we had 9,631 in the North, 1,036 in the West and 6,383 in the Eastern Region. You will see, Sir, that the Federal Roads compared with the Regional Roads and the Local Authority roads go in the order of progression, 3,000, 4,000, 9,000 miles.

Again, Sir, about 1959, we had Trunk Roads A and B in the North to be a little over 6,000 miles; in the West a little over 2,000 miles; and in the Eastern Region a little over 2,000 miles too; whereas the Native Authority and Local Authority roads in those areas were as follows: 13,504 miles in the North, 4,722 miles in the West, and 11,685 miles in the East.

The point I am making, Sir, is that the Local Government Councils with their slender resources, find it impossible to look after the thousands of miles of roads that are assigned to them under the Constitution; and furthermore the Regional Governments have not the money to maintain the thousands of miles of roads which are also assigned to them under the framework of our Constitution. It follows, therefore, that the only way to find a solution to our road problems is for the Federal Government to expand its roads in such a way as to take over some of the Regional roads.

Before going further, Sir, I must first of all speak on the first principle of the Motion, which is to praise the Federal Government for the wonderful work it is performing on our roads. As the first speaker, has said, if you go from Onitsha to Enugu you will find a tremendous amount of labour which has been put into our roads and bridges. Most of the roads have been widened more than twice their original size and some of the bridges have also been improved. And if you were to go to the University of Nigeria at Nsukka you would find that the road from ninth mile corner to Aliade in the North is one of the best developed in the Federation. It was given over to the contractors, and they did a fine job of it.

Also, Sir, one of the worst roads we had in the Eastern Region was the road from Enugu through Abakaliki to Ikom. At present it

would be only a delight to move from Abakaliki to Yahe, and all one would do is to ask the Minister to continue the good work from Yahe to Ikom. In the East the Federal Government has been doing very efficient work, and with the Western Region we are seeing very good signs of wonderful improvements in road expansion. Also, if my information is correct, some of the roads in the Northern Region have been brought up to a very good standard.

Next, Sir, is the survey itself. In determining economic road surveys one must take into cognizance the number of cars, lorries, and motor-cycles which ply the roads. Some years ago, about 1938, we had only 1,465 vehicles of all sorts on the Nigerian roads; and by 1950 we had about 22,900. Currently, Sir, according to the Report of a Committee of the United Nations which toured here, it is estimated that there should be up to 60,000 vehicles of all types in Nigeria, but according to the "*Digest of Statistics*" you will find that we have approximately 42,000 on the Nigerian roads at present. In determining the roads that should actually be taken over it is necessary to find out the roads on which more and more cars and lorries ply, because on that depends the movement of our produce.

It follows, therefore, that in some areas in the Regions some roads which are Trunk "B" carry a heavier traffic than some areas in the Federal set-up, and such roads should actually be taken up by the Federal Government, depending on the availability of funds.

This Federal House should be prepared to vote the necessary amount of money needed by the Federal Ministry of Works in order to take over certain Regional roads which, in turn, will make it possible for the Regional Governments to take over certain of the Native Authority and Local Government roads.

Finally, Sir, I would like to say that the life of an average car in Nigeria is between two and three years, and, if you happen to be one of those who are in the condemned areas where you have very bad roads, it only follows that you will have to buy your car every two years; and if you do not have the money you are bound to walk. It is true therefore, that the majority of cars we buy in this country

are not made to the specifications suitable to the roads we have in this country. Standard roads in Europe, or America, are so made that these cars which ply them can last for many years. Now, in Nigeria if you take your car from here to Ikom you will find that you are going to spend £300 to maintain it after reaching there; and in certain areas in the North if you take your *Buick* over there you will find that eventually in less than two months you are going to spend up to £400, and the reason for this is because the roads are very bad.

You will notice, Sir, that some hon. Members, instead of buying fine cars which are comfortable—like the *Chevrolet*, *Oldsmobile*, and so forth—they buy the *Land Rover*, because of the fact that the roads are too bad, and cars, such as the *Jeep*, the *Land Rover*, and the *Volkswagen*, are the only cars which can stand the roads as they are at present. All the car dealers in this country must take cognizance of the fact that our roads are bad at present, and for that reason they should prepare their specifications so that their cars can withstand the rigours of our roads.

I know the Minister is a very energetic man, and that he has the interest of every area at heart and will accept this Motion which is non-contentious and which, I know, all sides of the House are eager to support.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise too early in order to save Members time to debate other Motions. I want to thank the hon. Members, the mover of the Motion and the seconder, for the way they have thanked the Government for its efforts and the appreciation they have also shown of the various projects that are being carried on in the country.

Before I proceed, Sir, I would like to inform the House that the Government is in full sympathy with the Motion, and we have therefore accepted it. (*Hear, hear*). The Government also accepts that the relative economic importance of the existing roads, or of any proposed new road, is a primary factor to take into account in planning the road

system of the country. It has, indeed, long been appreciated and has been applied in allocating the money available for road development.

I have had completed a detailed survey of the whole of the Federal road network in order to determine the relative priorities, one against the other, of all the desirable improvements to each of the roads. Surveys, economic and otherwise, will continue on all roads for which the Federal Government is responsible. In addition, the Government now has economists engaged specifically in examining the future development programme from an economic point of view, and it is expected that a transport economist will be engaged soon.

The Government, Sir, is well aware of the feelings that the Federal Government should have a wider responsibility for roads. It will be recalled that an undertaking has been given that the Federal Government would review the extent of its responsibility in connection with the formulation of the road programme for the years 1962-67 and I am glad to say that the Regions have been invited to put forward proposals for our consideration. The House will, of course, remember that roads cost money and that Federal Government's ability to take on further responsibility for roads is limited by financial considerations. Nevertheless, Sir, the Federal Government will carry out the review sympathetically and with understanding. (*Hear, hear*.)

The hon. Member who moved the Motion spoke of maintenance of Federal Roads. The procedure is, the Regional Governments, act as Agents of the Federal Government. After a road has been constructed, or after the effective work on the road has been completed, we trust the maintenance of the road to the Regional Governments. He has given figures of the cost to maintain certain roads in different parts of the country. This is, of course, as he has said, different according to what part of Nigeria, it is because of differing soil and climatic conditions.

The question of trusting the maintenance of roads to contractors is debatable. Whether the Contractors will maintain the roads better than the Regional Governments are doing now, is open to question. I must here say, that the Regional Governments are giving us very good service for which we are grateful (*Hear, hear*.) The Member also spoke of Nigerian

[MINISTER OF WORKS]

Contractors. It is true that at the moment there are very few Nigerian Contractors registered in the higher category. This is simply because to be a Civil Engineering Contractor, a lot of capital is required and a lot of costly plant is also required. I have said on many occasions, that Nigerian Contractors will be well advised to get together and form companies so that they can buy these costly plants and also, they can be in a position to employ qualified staff. (*Hear, hear*).

Sir, I support the Motion on behalf of the Government.

Mr P. E. Ekanem : Mr Speaker, Sir, as said by the hon. Member, the measure is controversial and I was waiting to let the Government reply. I will not say much because the Government has accepted this Motion. But all we want is this. If we begin now to go into the network of the roads in the Regions there will be trouble, but I will let you know at this stage, Sir (*Interruptions*). The roads in the North, I can at this time pay tribute to the tin miners in the Plateau because most of the roads we have in the Plateau are constructed by the tin miners and as we are now engaged in road survey, it is necessary that the Government should think seriously to take over some of these roads. (*Interruptions*).

I would like to turn to our Region, Sir. In an answer to the question put by me and in an answer by the Government in a Motion tabled in this House by me during the sitting of this Session, we were told that there is a move between the Federal Government and the Regional Government, with particular reference to the Eastern Region Government, that they are going to submit the list of the roads which the Federal Government may take over. That being so, I want these routes to be borne in mind: The roads from Umuahia-Ibeku as amended in the other Motion to be taken into consideration. It is a very, very important road. From Udo in Owerri right to Itu in Enyong Division. There is a road from Oron to Eket, Oron to connect Opobo Road. Uyo to connect Opobo Road. (*Interruptions*). I repeat, Udo, Umuahia-Ibeku, Itu in the Enyong Division, then Oron to Eket at the junction of Uya-Oron, then from that junction again to connect Opobo Road. From..... (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I will not allow these interruptions. I must say that this causes degeneration in the standard of debate.

Mr Ekanem : Mr Speaker, Sir, there is also an important road from Uyo to connect Opobo. All these and several other roads should be taken into consideration when negotiating for the taking over of the roads. Sir, I oppose very vehemently any maintenance of roads being given out because I know of the road from Ikot-Ekpene to Itu, which is a distance of only twenty-four miles. The contract was given to one African Contractor, for two years now he has not done half of the road, yet if it were given to a European Contractor, he would have completed that in the earliest possible time. Any new roads to be opened should not be given to any African Contractor who has not the ability financially or otherwise to do that work as regards maintenance.

Now, to come to the question of the maintenance of roads, you will see somebody will come and pose as a Contractor but he is not a Contractor, he knows nothing about the maintenance of the road.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Abaja and Ngwo) : Point of order, Sir. The speaker is making a general statement to the tune that African Contractors are not doing well. I think he should say some African Contractors are not doing well; for him to say all African Contractors are bad....(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order. That is not point of Order.

Mr Ekanem : Mr Speaker, Sir, I realise that most of the Members there are themselves Contractors and the Floor of this House should not be used to canvas for any work. (*Interruptions*). The Motion is acceptable to this side of the House. (*Applause*). We only say that consideration should be given to the roads named and others which may be named in the future.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Alhaji Daura (Maska) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion. I congratulate the Federal Government for its activities and the efforts it is making for the construction of

the Zaria-Funtua-Zafi Road. I must also, here, point out one important road which seems to have been neglected altogether and that is Maundo-Funtua Road. Although this is a Regional road I would like the Minister to consider this road when the time comes for the Federal Government to take over trunk roads. This road is very important. It used to be the only road to the North.

When this road is improved, I think it will relieve the travellers travelling to Katsina, eastern part of Sokoto, to Zaria and to parts of Kano by shortening the road *via* Kaduna, Zaria by at least 74 miles. By this it will be seen that by improving this road, we are also improving the economy of the country. (*Hear, hear*).

Another road of importance which I would like the Federal Government to take over is the Funtua-Yashe Road. It used to be a Trunk A Road, the only road from Lagos to Kano. But now it has been taken over by the Regional Government and I think it is a great burden to the Regional Government because they have got other roads which are no less important than the Trunk A Roads which the Federal Government wants to take over; and also because their funds are limited. If the Federal Government takes over this road then the Regional Government will be relieved of its duties and will take over another road, that is—the Katsina-Duchima-Kangara-Malufanshi Road which runs through the heart of Katsina and is a very important road more than the Kano-Funtua road.

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

Mr A. Opia (Aboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to associate myself with the fine tributes paid to the Minister of Works for the good work which the Government has carried out. In fact I am happy that the principle of the Motion has been accepted by the Government but I feel that at this stage it would be proper to mention quite a few points.

I come particularly from a place where the roads are so very bad and I come from the Western Region where it is very difficult to get good roads except you belong to the other political party, so that I feel I should bring this to the knowledge of the Minister because my people have suffered adversely in the hands

of the Government and because we are adversely opposed to that Government and that is the Action Group Government.

I have in mind, Sir, the road between Aboh to Warri. This road is the only road serving over ten constituencies and I feel, Sir, that if the Minister of Works will have this road in mind when perhaps the taking over of trunk roads from the Regional Governments will become a matter for consideration, I would like the Minister to have this road in mind because it serves quite a number of people and not only that we have the Mid-West Region in view very shortly and perhaps this might be the only road which would serve the whole of the Mid-West particularly thinking of the people in Aboh, Uromi, Kwale up to Warri and Sapele—all the people pass through this very road.

Why I feel, Sir, that the Minister should have this road in mind is because in the Western Region it is very important and is a commercial road. If one looks at the produce from the Western Region, especially I have in mind, cocoa and rubber which are really the only commercial products in the area, it is particularly on this very road that they are exportable. I also have to say that the Shell Company is using this road—Warri-Kwale—and all those areas are really crude oil bearing where Shell is doing their day to day work and the heavy lorries and transport which they use seem to be destroying the road. Very often the Local Councils and the Local Government in that area cannot foot the expenses involved in maintaining this road. So, I feel, Sir, that the Minister of Works should have this road in mind when perhaps he considers taking over some of the regional roads.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): On a point of explanation, Sir, I do want Members to remember the statement I made in this hon. House that we have asked the Regional Governments to submit their recommendations of what roads they want the Federal Government to take over. It would be very difficult for me and for the Federal Government to tell the Regions that you must include this road, you must include that.

[MINISTER OF WORKS]

What I will advise hon. Members to do, Sir, is that if they feel strongly over any particular road, they either take it up directly with the Regional Government concerned or they brief a member of the Regional House of Assembly from their area to raise it with the Regional Minister of Works.

Mr Speaker: I wish to remind hon. Members that this Motion calls only for a road survey and nothing else and so Members should realise that they have another opportunity of discussing various little roads in their constituencies when they come to the Estimates in the Committee of Supply on the Ministry of Works; so that to save time we have, I shall put the question

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House appreciates the activities of the Federal Government in improving Federal trunk roads in the regions, and calls upon it to make a thorough economic road survey of the entire Federation and extend the Federal roads by taking over some important trunk roads from the Regional Governments.

ROYALTIES ON CRUDE OIL

Mr K. Giadom (Ogoni West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper "that, in order to compensate the owners of the land from which crude oil is obtained, and to win their goodwill, and to help develop such land, this House calls on the Government to set up an economic and development board which will use the 5 per cent of the distributable pool allocated to the Southern Cameroons Government to develop the areas from which crude oil is now obtained and any other such areas in which oil may be found in the future."

Sir, the Motion before this House is very simple; it is not parochial, it is not selfish in its aim.

Mr Speaker, it will be quite obvious that some hon. Members here may have forgotten the background to the Motion they have before them now. I wish to seek your permission to refresh their memories on the background to this Motion so that they may be well-informed and will not be prejudiced in their debate on this Motion.

According to the fiscal policy of this country, royalties on crude oil produced in Nigeria are divided as follows:—

	Percentage
To the Region of origin	50
To the Federal Government for Federal revenue	20
To the Federal Government for the Distributable Pool	30

The Distributable Pool to be shared as follows:—

- To the Northern Region 40 per cent being 12 per cent of the total royalties;
- To the Western Region 24 per cent being 7.2 per cent of the total royalties;
- To the Eastern Region 31 per cent being 9.3 per cent of the total royalties.
- To the Southern Cameroons 5 per cent being 1.5 per cent of the total royalties.

Therefore, for crude oil produced in the Eastern Region, the royalties are distributable as follows:—

	Percentage
Eastern Region	59.3
Northern Region	12
Western Region	7.2
Southern Cameroons	1.5
Federal Government	20

Now, for crude oil production in the Western Region, the royalties are distributable as follows:—

	Percentage
Western Region	57
Northern Region	12
Eastern Region	9.3
Southern Cameroons	1.5
Federal Government	20

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, my Motion seeks the share of these royalties that goes to the Southern Cameroons Government to be used in a beneficial way to the Federal Government of Nigeria now that the Southern Cameroons Government has decided not to stay in the Federation of Nigeria any more. At this juncture, one may like to know how much in cash the share which I am calling for here that goes to the Southern Cameroons yields annually. In a draft reply to my oral question No. 529 put to the hon. the Minister of Finance at a Session of this House which adjourned *sine die* on the 20th August, 1960, the hon. Minister of Finance had the following answer to give and, with your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote:

"The Constitution provides that 50 per cent of the royalties on crude oil should be allocated to the Regions from which the oil is extracted: 30 per cent paid into the Distributable Pool and 20 per cent should be retained by the Federal Government. The Distributable Pool is itself divided among the Regional Governments, including the Southern Cameroons whose share is 5 per cent of the total. The amount of royalties on crude oil which was paid to the Southern Cameroons Government through the Distributable Pool arrangements in 1959-60 amounted to £3,331-13s-2d. No amount has yet been paid in respect of the current year but the Southern Cameroons Government will receive its share of the royalties paid up to and including the 30th September, 1959, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution."

We can see, Sir, that from the figure we have here going to the Southern Cameroons, the areas from which crude oil is obtained in this country are contributing approximately about £222,000 to the revenue of the various Governments in this country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, no one quarrels with the share given to the Southern Cameroons Government as long as that Government was part and parcel of Nigeria, but now that the Government has severed itself from Nigeria, it is obvious that the share of the royalties that was being paid to the Southern Cameroons Government will be recalled by the Federal Government. Now, how to invest this portion of the royalties when recalled so that it will be profitable to Nigeria is what my Motion here seeks and I am appealing to all sections of this House to have a far-reaching foresight on this Motion and to leave playing politics into it.

It is a fact that to-day crude oil is not yet found in some places in this country. It is a growing industry as you all know; it is a pioneer industry. It may be in your place tomorrow that the next find will take place. In support of this view, Sir, may I refer this hon. House to extracts from various sources indicating the rapid growth of the oil industry in this country. In His Excellency's Speech from the Throne on the 31st March, 1960, in this hon. House, he said:

"Assistance will be given in the exploration and development of new areas, and special attention is being given to the possibility of finding oil in the Northern Region."

Again, on 29th March, 1961, during the Session we are now in, our first African Governor-General of Nigeria in his Speech from the Throne said:

"The most encouraging feature of mineral production is the increasing quantity of oil which is exported from Nigeria. My Government intends to encourage those companies which are prospecting for oil."

Just the other day in this House, while the hon. Minister of Finance was supporting a Motion for the creation of the Mid-West State, he said, and with your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote: "But there is a more important event, the recent discovery of oil in commercial quantity in the Mid-West Area".

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is now obvious from these few references that the oil find in this country is increasing and spreading to many parts of the country in order to make many areas benefit from what the Motion before us now seeks to do for the areas in which oil is found.

Sir, let us take a look at some of the places where this crude oil is found in Nigeria. These places, through accident of history, have become backward, poverty-stricken, and under-developed in our modern era. They can be likened to the Biblical statement: "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" This is so because of the deplorable condition of these places. Look at Oloibiri, see Affam and then Ogoni. Immediately these places and other places this crude oil is got from are mentioned, the first thing that comes into your mind is *backwardness*, *under-developed* areas, *unprogressive* areas, the places where people die due to lack of medical facilities. When any mention is made of the backward places in these areas, the first thing that comes to our minds of the people of these areas is *mass illiteracy*. We very much agree that on the whole mass illiteracy is the greatest disease in this country, but it is the sum total of the sundry conditions existing in these areas that to-day brings about the *mass illiteracy* of the country as a whole.

[MR GIADOM]

Sir, many first-class brains rust away in these backward areas because of lack of educational facilities there.

As a teacher and principal of one of the oldest secondary schools in this country, (*Hear, hear*), I am pointing out to this hon. House with authority that every year when school certificate results are out, you have 80 cases in every 100 of students from these backward areas who score Grades I and II. I have brought out this point to show this House, in support of my case that in these backward areas, if opportunities are given to the children, we have the would-be Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe of Nigeria, the Nkrumah, the great scientists but because of lack of attention, these brains are lost.

In cases of medical facilities, those of us who live in places like Lagos, Ibadan, Kaduna, Enugu and other few townships in the country to enjoy all the good things of life cannot understand the untold sufferings people in these areas are passing through. Because there are no newspapers in these areas to report the various types of death that take place there, some of you may find it difficult to believe when I tell this hon. House that everyday in these backward areas, expectant mothers die during labour.

Mr Speaker, Sir, now come the important questions. Are these areas part of Nigeria? Are the people of these areas entitled to all good things of life as human beings like their counterparts in places like Lagos, Ibadan, Kaduna and Enugu? Have they any citizenship rights? Do our Government owe these people any duties? What steps are being taken to develop these areas?

Sir, the Motion now before this House seeks to contribute to the answers to these questions. During the last Budget Session in March 1960, I tried to draw the attention of this House to one of the most recent concepts of students of political science in our contemporary history. They appear on page 43 of the *Official Report* of the debate of this House.—The *Hansard*, Volume I, Session 1960-61—With your permission, Sir, I quote:

“As long as the oil cannot be taken from under the soil without coming to the surface to disturb the owners of the soil, the concept of the right of property ownership and the right to any livelihood comes into place”.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission, may I draw the attention of this House to an important political thought expressed on the kinds of rights of the individual and the State as contained in a book captioned ‘An Outline of Political Science’ written by Professors Jacobsen and Lipman. “The right of property except in the extreme form of communism, the right of the individual to some property is generally recognised. Desire for ownership is held to be a basic human urge. The State protects personal property against theft and usually provides for protection against damage of various sorts; through its code of civil law. The right to earn a livelihood—It is coming to be recognised that the individual has a right either to employment or to engage in a remunerative business or profession. When economic conditions are such that this right is denied to a large number of people, it may become the duty of the State to intervene to provide employment”.

Sir, from the view expressed, we can see that the people of these areas from which oil is found in this country have the right to employment and other good things of life which can only be created with the oil industry on their land. According to the present set-up in the oil industry in this country, the economic conditions are such that this right is denied to a large number of people owing to the fact that no adequate attention has been given to them. Mr Speaker, Sir, even the Shell Company have appreciated this opinion expressed here by their annual scholarship award to children from these oil producing areas.

Before I take my seat, may I briefly summarise the reasons why I table this Motion and why all sections of this House, including the Government, should support it.

1. A state of ferment is being reached in these rural and backward areas because of the great neglect given to them by the Government. A deep sense of dissatisfaction has been generated into these areas;

2. The people of these backward and undeveloped areas are the easiest victims of any new social order or idea of philosophy seeking to overthrow the old existing social order by way of revolution;

3. I understand that some people are opposed to communism in this country. If we are not going to give any helping hand to communism in this country, then let those in power move fast to give adequate attention to our backward under-developed rural areas, otherwise we need the whole population of this country in our army to shoot down and curb the idea in future in this country ;

4. By accepting the Motion before us, the Federal Government not only would be helping to develop this country but will also be advertising itself and making itself popular ;

5. This Motion also seeks to help in making a high standard of living reach the common-man in the rural areas.

Mr Speaker : I received a message from the reporters that they are not able to hear the hon. Member. I think this is due to conversations not in undertones.

Mr Giadom : 6. This Motion is not asking the Federal Government or the Regional Governments to relinquish any portion of their crude oil royalties that they now enjoy. All that the Motion is seeking is to invest the share that was somewhere else in a project that will contribute to the welfare of our people. If the Southern Cameroons were still with Nigeria, the Federal Government and the Regional Governments would have no claim to the share going to them, so by using the Southern Cameroons' share in the way this Motion is asking for, both the Federal and Regional Governments have nothing to lose ; instead they gain by getting their country to be both intensively and extensively developed ;

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

7. Some may argue that the share the Motion is here calling for will not be enough for setting up a Board to look after the development of these backward areas. To these people, I say that it is not the size of the cat but the fight in the cat that counts. All that we want is honest and sincere people to handle the project. It is said that half bread is better than nothing ;

8. Let those of us here who come from areas that oil is not yet discovered not stand in the way of this Motion. If you do so, you are writing sad history for posterity yet unborn.

As I said earlier, oil industry is a pioneer industry and tomorrow it may be in your place that the next find will take place.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Motion is not selfish and has all the good intentions with it. It constitutes a big challenge to all of us here because it shows one of the practical ways of approach to the solution of our problem. It will help to create jobs for our boys and girls and widen their opportunities in life. We have talked big for a long time now and this motion has come out to test our sincerity in all the big talks we have been having.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I commend this motion to all my good friends, the lovers of the common-man—the peasants in this country. When this motion is passed and the Government brings up a Bill for its operation I suggest that the Government call such Bill "The Federal Government Peasant Bill".

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.
(Hear, hear).

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am happy to be called upon to second this important motion. I am happy to do so for two reasons. Oil business is my speciality. I have accumulated a great deal of knowledge not only from the Petroleum Marketing Companies but also from Petroleum Production Firms both here and abroad. Besides, I am representing a constituency which is Aba South, which floats on oil. There is crude oil production in Afam. Oil fields yet untapped have been located in Owaza and Imo River and even in Oza area. In fact, the whole of my constituency is blessed with oil and I am, therefore, well qualified to speak on this motion.

As hon. Members may recall, I have on previous occasions called upon the Government to increase the revenue from the petroleum profits tax by either abrogating the fifty-fifty profit sharing agreement between the Government and the Shell-BP or devising a method of controlling the income and expenditure of that company whose net profit is shared. Even though the Federal Government has not accepted my suggestion, yet the fact remains

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that that source of revenue calls for stringent and careful handling. However, for the purpose of the motion, our concern is the disposal of the five per cent oil revenue formerly allocated to the Southern Cameroons.

Sir, this motion calls for two things: firstly, the re-allocation of the Southern Cameroons' share of the distributable revenue from crude oil to the rest of the country, and, secondly, the creation of the new Development Board which may be called "Oil Fields Development Board".

Sir, the motion states clearly the object of this new Board. The Board will serve as a means of providing the much needed compensation for the disorganised and dislocated areas where petroleum productions is in progress. Such a compensation will help to win the goodwill of these people who have become the victim of this modern industry. Thus, if compensated, the areas in question will be automatically developed.

It so happens that most of the places where crude oil is being produced at present are, by Nigerian standards, very backward. Therefore, the development that will be promoted by this new Board will be greatly welcomed.

Sir, I must add a note of explanation about oil areas. At present oil areas are mainly in the South, but, according to geological survey, a good prospect of oil exists in the North too. It only needs exploration. In short, petroleum reserves abound in most parts of Nigeria. Therefore, this Board will operate not only in the South, but throughout Nigeria in the near future. Sir, lest hon. Members be apprehensive about the utility of creating this Board.

I am going to analyse the special problems unique to oil areas and I will show how difficult, if not impossible, it is for such problems to be solved by the Regional Governments which normally have a share in the revenue from petroleum.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, when land is acquired by oil companies for their business such land is perpetually rendered useless for farming. Even if the land could be put to use again the greater problem that oil companies are here to stay still remains. They do not intend to leave in the foreseeable future, so that the land leased to them may never be recovered. Their use to the farmer in the village is lost for ever. Yet when the land was being leased the

villager had no intention of forfeiting his land for ever.

Sir, assuming that the land could be recovered after many years, there is still another problem—the chemical contents of crude oil are very injurious to living organism. Crops cannot thrive where the internal flame from the natural gas in crude oil rages. The oil itself kills all types of vegetable life with which it is in contact. Large areas are thus rendered useless by the activities of the Petroleum Companies.

Sir, even during the exploration stage of oil production several buildings are destroyed by the shock wave from seismic surveys. In my constituency valuable and costly church buildings, and even homes, are damaged by the shock. Yet there is no legal evidence for filing claims for such damages. Even where there is, the villagers have no financial means to pursue their claims. In these and many other ways, the Petroleum Companies continue their ravages in their drive for crude oil.

I will not do my conscience justice, Mr Deputy Speaker, if I fail to point out that these companies do pay compensation for damage to crops and properties. They usually pay the Government approved rates of compensation, but the rates are so meagre that they serve no purpose whatsoever. Here are some of the rates: Oil-palm, for example, is about 8s per tree; piassava tree is about 10s per tree, if not less; Banana is about 4s per tree and Cocoa is about 10s per tree, if not less. How can these rates be adequate when an oil-palm tree alone can yield about £5 a year for a period of about one hundred years.

Besides, Mr Deputy Speaker, the Companies' compensations are usually paid by their officials who take advantage of the ignorance of the people to cheat the villagers. In most cases, half of the compensation paid is usually received by officials of the Oil Companies, not by villagers. Because of the poverty raging in the village, affected villagers jubilate over the meagre amount paid them, they jubilate over them without grumbling perhaps because ignorance and poverty cause them to be content—

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): On a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, by insinuation, the hon. Member is suggesting that some of the officials of the Oil Companies are corrupt.

Several hon. Members : Yes.

Mr Ememe : Ignorance and poverty cause them to be content even when they are being exploited.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the condition of the people of these oil areas is worsening because of their inability to realise their own awful situation and then pray for assistance from the Regional Government. Consequently, these oil areas are not given any special attention in the distribution of social amenities. In fact, in most cases, they are neglected by the Regional Government for one reason or another. For example, Sir, Afam Village which owns land where oil is flowing like water—oil which yields about six million pounds to the Federal and Regional Governments—has no road, no water supply, no electric light, no postal facilities, no medical facilities, no school.

Mr Deputy Speaker : Order, order. We seem to notice that the hon. Member is making frequent references to his notes. Will he please do so with his head upwards to avail us of the benefit of hearing him.

Mr Ememe : I am sure that Afam is not the only place in this distressing condition. You may find the same situation in other oil areas like Bomu and Olo-Ibiri and so forth.

One important fact that should be noted is that in these areas the Shell Company and those other companies exploring for oil do have these facilities to themselves; and exclusive to themselves. The oil companies do not provide these amenities to the villagers because they argue that the royalties paid by the companies should be used for social amenities by the Nigerian Government. We too, who represent these villagers, have no justifiable reasons for pressing for direct provision by oil companies of these amenities to the oil areas. The only course left to us in the circumstances is to bring our present needs to the notice of our Federal Government. We have no other place to carry our problems but to the Federal Government. This is a golden opportunity for the oil areas to be remembered.

The exit of the Southern Cameroons may turn out to be a blessing for us. Our oil areas have recently made tremendous contributions to the development of this country. We shall continue to do so. But our backward areas desperately need compensation and encouragement, as being stated in this Motion.

It is only fair that at least a part of the revenue derived from the wealth of the oil areas be ploughed back into the land that yielded it. We are only asking for five *per cent* of the sum. The rest of the ninety-five *per cent* belongs to the whole country. The Board would use the five *per cent*, to provide some of the lacking amenities.

The psychological effect on the devastated oil area would be tremendous indeed. It would mean—

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): Mr Speaker, Sir, the speech of the hon. gentleman should be made in the Committee of Supply under Head 52, Ministry of Mines and Power. It is a Motion.

The Deputy Speaker : Order. I believe the difficulties of Mr Ekanem are appreciated. (*Laughter*).

Mr Ememe : It would leave in the minds of our people the favourable impression desired. After all, the five *per cent* asked for would be very insignificant if it were distributed to the Regional Governments in the normal proportions. Such redistribution would be contrary to the provisions of the Nigerian Constitution. Therefore to avoid Constitutional obstacles the money should be used for these new Boards.

Hon. Members will remember that oil may be discovered in their constituency any time. When it is discovered they will not hesitate to feel the same way as we feel at present. Then why not associate themselves with our demand, now? To the Government we say that they have nothing to lose. On the other hand, they will gain both the respect and confidence of their subjects in the oil areas.

Sir, I am aware of the possible distortions which will be given to this Motion by those who are afflicted with an amendment mania, but I am confident that Members are now convinced as to the necessity of our assisting these oil areas. Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North): I humbly rise to move the amendment standing in my name, That this House notes with pleasure more and more successes in oil exploration and

[MR OGBALU]

is of the opinion that the Federal Government should use the Royalties accruing to the Federal Government in the economic development of the whole country, and that the present system of compensation to oil land-owners should continue.

It is well-known to this House that I come from an area where the oil companies have carried out exploration work, and that is Akukwa in Awka Division and there is still the possibility of discovering oil there, so I am not talking because no oil has been found in my district but I am talking from the point of view of the Motion, its purpose and its intentions.

This honourable House will agree with me that the jubilation of the whole nation knew no bounds as news of successful oil exploration continued to pour in. It is a joy to the whole nation that this land has been blessed with oil by nature. Why are we happy and proud? We are happy because God has come to our rescue in the hour of our needs. There is no nation which is more desirous of, and more determined for, economic progress than this country. In fact the sum total of all these is that the continuous efforts of the Regional and Federal Governments have grown and are still directed to this end. We are lucky, therefore, and should offer thanks to God for providing us with such a valuable instrument of social change.

We have to congratulate those companies, Nigerian or expatriate, for their doggedness in their continual search for oil and assure them that all the finds will be to the mutual benefits of all.

Sir, I move an amendment to this Motion with a great sense of responsibility. The original Motion, with due respect to hon. Giadom, is fraught with lack of information and lack of the spirit of national unity which the whole nation has been clamouring for.

I find a lack of information because the Motion implies that no compensation is already being paid to oil land-owners. This is false. The Federal Government, in consultation with the Regional Governments, and particularly the Regional Governments concerned, has set up a remedial law, if you

would like to call it that, by means of which adequate compensation is paid to all land-owners for the use of their land, for damage done to their farms, to their crops, and it is up to the citizens to avail themselves of these fine opportunities.

If there are some who have not had their compensation that may have been due to ignorance, and it is our bounden duty, as their representatives, to pass this information on to them. I think this is sufficient to win their goodwill.

It is also a good thing that the Shell Company, which is responsible for oil exploration, is offering scholarships to the children of the areas where oil is found and, moreover, the areas are getting improvements in many ways including the springing up of towns and houses and so on.

Now, coming to the second part of the Motion, that this House calls on the Government to set up an Economic Development Board which will use the five *per cent* of the attributable pool allocated to the Southern Cameroons Government—

Mr Speaker: Order. Is Mr Ogbalu arguing on behalf of his Motion or is he trying to argue against the case put forward by the movers of the original motion?

Mr Ogbalu: I am arguing in support of my Motion, Sir, that is my amendment, Sir. I am only quoting the original Motion. The salient point in it is that there is nothing like five *per cent* of the distributable pool allocated to the Southern Cameroons Government.

After the attainment of independence on October 1st, 1960, the Southern Cameroons was separated from Nigeria and the five *per cent* quota fell to the normal pool and was regarded as the property of the Federal Government which is the rightful inheritor of the liabilities of the Southern Cameroons Government in view of that territory's former relation with Nigeria. I think, Sir, that if compensation and the present arrangements have been proved to be unsatisfactory, a complaint should have come from the Regional Governments and the Federal Government should have been disposed to give it due and fitting consideration.

What has made me to move this Amendment is that almost all the oil producing land lies in the minority area for which the Federal Government has made adequate provision by setting up the Niger Delta Development Board, on behalf of which this House has been made to approve a sum of £2,500 for its sole development. The setting up of another Development Board will make nonsense of the Niger Delta Development Board agreed upon at the London Constitutional Conference.

Mr K. Giadom (Ogoni West): On a point of information, Sir, Afam is not in the minority area for which the Niger Delta Development Board has been set up.

Mr Ogbalu: In my statement, Sir, I said "almost all". In fact, practical politics shows that this is impracticable and untenable, and not in the best interests of the people concerned. Sir, if the distributable pool should be put off as suggested by the Motion, where will the £2,500 which this House has been asked to vote for, be found. I hope, Sir, that in view of this careful analysis and explanation, my Amendment will be acceptable to this hon. House.

Mr Deputy Speaker: Order, order! If there is no seconder to the Amendment, I think it lapses in accordance with Standing Orders.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Mines and Power rose in his place and expressed the wish to second the Amendment.

Mr Deputy Speaker: Then you can go on.

The Minister of Mines and Power (hon. M. Maitama Sule): Sir, it is a great pity that the long speeches of the hon. Members the Mover and the Secunder have almost cleared the House, but nevertheless, I feel that much as I am in sympathy with both of them, I cannot but give this particular Motion a technical knock out. (*Shouts of Power, Power.*) I will give my reasons for doing so. At almost every meeting of this House of Representatives, Members show great interest, and rightly too, in the growing oil industry of this country and I welcome this opportunity which Mr Giadom has given me to explain further the position as regards royalty and land compensation.

In the first place, I should like to correct a misapprehension in the Motion, that the revenue which formerly accrued to the Southern Cameroons Government is now paid entirely to the Federal Government; that is not the case, and has not been the case since the 1st of October last, from which date most other revenues in respect of the distributable pool were paid to the Southern Cameroons, but instead of that, it is ploughed into the distributable pool; it has not been standing idle since October. That particular percentage that used to accrue to the Southern Cameroons Government has been ploughed into the distributable pool and has been distributed to all the Governments of the Regions according to the provisions laid down in the Constitution.

Sir, sections 134 and 135 of the Constitutional Order in Council which lay down the method of allocation of all royalties make no reference to the Southern Cameroons, and what in fact happens is that part of the royalty which used to go to the Southern Cameroons is now distributed together with all other revenues and royalties to the various Governments of the Federation in the proportions laid down. The bulk of revenue received from the royalty is therefore paid to the region of origin.

Members may be interested in some figures of royalties and rents which were paid for the last financial year. Of the total received,—(a little over £1,200,000) over £600,000 went to the Eastern Nigeria, over £200,000 to the Western Nigeria, £153,000 to the Northern Nigeria, and about £240,000 to the Federal Government.

The question of whether the royalty on oil should be used for the benefit of the areas in which oil was found, has been raised in one form or another on many occasions in the past. The legal position is that the entire property in, and control of all minerals and mineral oil, are vested in the Crown by virtue of section 3 of the Minerals Ordinance. It is established practice that royalties are paid to the person or authority in whom the title to the mineral or mineral oil is vested. The owner of the title right and the land on which the oil is found is entitled in this country only to compensation for the disturbance of these rights. This situation applies throughout the Middle East,

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in the United Kingdom, and in almost all countries, other than the United States of America. In America, the owner of the land is also the owner of the minerals found beneath that land, and therefore is entitled to whatever royalty is paid on these minerals. (*Interruptions*). Well, I am telling you this, but it is not the case here, nor is it in the Middle East, and in many other countries.

Several hon. Members : Why is it not so here ?

The Minister of Mines and Power : Because we here in Nigeria are more broad-minded and we think more of our own brothers in whose areas oil has not been found.

The licences and leases which are held by all oil companies before they begin to operate, provide that compensation must be paid for crops damaged or destroyed in the course of the search for oil. Compensation is also paid for depriving the owner of the land the right to use his land. The scale of compensation which is paid is laid down by the Government, and payment is always in accordance with those rates. I give an instance here.

Since Shell-B.P. began operation, a total of £515,000 has been paid in compensation to land owners. I am sure that Members of this House will appreciate that it is in the interests of the country as a whole that any benefit received by way of royalty and mineral rent for minerals found in this country should be used for the benefit of the country as a whole. It will be unfair if by the accident of oil being discovered in a particular area, that area should receive the full benefit of oil payment made to the country. It must be the responsibility of the Regional Government, I repeat, it must be the responsibility of the Regional Government to decide whether any part of the revenue which it receives from the mineral and oil royalty should be spent on the development of the area in which that mineral is found.

Areas in which oil is found also derive benefit in that very often roads are built and employment is found for the local population. As a matter of policy, and I would like the hon. Member to listen to this very carefully, I also insist that in all the leases and licences which I grant for the exploration of oil, provision is made for the training of Nigerians, and in this

connection, I am informed by Shell-B.P. that wherever possible, preference is given to candidates for scholarships from a district in which oil operations are being carried out. It would therefore obviously be inequitable and unfair to the rest of the country, if the original Motion were to be accepted, and I therefore urge that this Motion as originally tabled be rejected, and support should be given to the Amendment proposed by Mr Ogbalu.

Sir, I beg to second the Amendment.

Mr A. U. D. Mba (Owerri North) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say one or two things on this Motion. We have listened attentively to the speech of the Minister but those of us from the rural areas particularly, from the very place where the activities of these oil companies are more noticed, know exactly what we are saying. There are so many stages that have to be passed before extracting oil from the soil.

My hon. Friend from Aba told you about the work of the seismic party when they enter somebody's land and start to prospect for oil. They destroy quite a lot of economic trees which you know are the main source of revenue for the people in the area. They pay, I know, certain compensation, that is not in dispute. After that they send the engineering section and the drilling section, and if they discover oil they begin to lay pipe lines. Good crops are destroyed, more economic trees are destroyed and if they do not find oil they leave the place.

Now, the point we are making is this. Take a place like Owerri as an example. Shell have been there since 1937. They were given land, they were given protection, they were given everything. After twenty-three years, they decided to leave Owerri for another place to have their headquarters. They developed a very nice camp and this very Federal Government is sitting down doing nothing. The camp is not used, trade has been destroyed and in the area, there is a big economic vacuum in the whole Division because of the exit of the Company. The Federal Government is merely interested in royalties, taking royalties to build skyscrapers in Lagos and leaving the people in rural areas, who have given these companies protection, to suffer. (*Hear, hear*). That is the point we are making.

We have given the Oil Companies protection, we have given them land but they have impoverished the land and destroyed the crops. The Government is telling us that they are not interested in what happens to the owner of this land, they are only interested in the revenue to be shared by the whole country. Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, we disagree and we are speaking with the mandate of the people in the rural areas. We are appealing to the Minister—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development (Mr F. U. Mbakogu): Point of Order, Sir. I want to assure the hon. Member that Awka people are not interested in that.

The Deputy Speaker: I do not think the last speaker said anything to do with Awka Division.

Mr Mbah: I am surprised, Sir, that some Parliamentary Secretaries should be so parochial in this House. It is true that in matters of scholarships, consideration is given to this area, but my contention is that we cannot afford to overload one particular station. If you want to develop this country, we cannot continue to overload either Lagos or Ibadan or Port Harcourt or the big towns with all these industries.

When we talk of development projects, we have in view our various constituencies and, I think, it would be a great disappointment if the Government should continue to maintain the policy that they are only concerned with royalties regardless of what happens to the people whose land have been used in prospecting for oil. After all when the owners of these lands tried to revolt against the company, this very Government came to them said—"Oh! it is in your interest, do not revolt. Give them land. You will all be alright". They were cooled down. All of us talked to them and they cooled down.

We believe in the African way and, whether the Government likes it or not, we own the land and everything inside the land; at least, that is the belief of the people in the area. We own the land and everything beneath the land, that is our belief.

Now, reference has been made to the Constitution which vested this land to the crown. We do not know which crown the Government is referring to at this particular

time, except you are telling us that you are inheriting a system laid down by the old colonial government. I had wanted to raise the point that the owner of the land owns the land and the royalties paid on it. That is what obtains in the United States. We are not even asking the Government to do that. We are merely saying that they should devise a means by which the owners of the land who had been kind enough, and generous enough to co-operate with these oil companies, and whose crops had been destroyed, are given some consideration in matters of development. This is a very simple request and I think the Government should accede to the people's wishes. This will win the Government more goodwill and, I am sure, the oil companies will not obstruct them.

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

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South-East) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to speak on a completely different aspect of the Motion. Although I support the amendment seconded by the Minister of Mines and Power, I am not out of sympathy with hon. Mbah and others.

I do not know what opportunities the Minister of Mines and Power has to check the number of barrels of oil leaving these oil depots for overseas. At this moment these oils are being refined probably in Brussels, in Paris or in England. How does the Minister know the number of barrels that are leaving this country?

We know that all the refined petrol entering this country is being checked by Customs officials at Apapa and that they are being taxed accordingly. But how do we know the number of barrels that these people can produce daily and send overseas? Furthermore, how do we know the number of gallons that they get from this crude oil when they have been refined either in London or Brussels? I do not think that we have any representative there. (*An hon Member: It is not our business.*)

I can hear an hon. Member saying that it is not our business. I think that is arrant nonsense; of course it is our business. If these people refine 500,000 gallons there, and they turn back and write to us that it is only 300,000 gallons, what have we gained from that? Instead we have lost a lot. The

[MR AKINJIDE]

Minister should take steps not only to know the number of barrels leaving this country, but also to know how many gallons these people are producing as refined products.

It is not enough to think of royalties alone. After all what you get as royalties is worked out on the number of gallons declared to you, true or false. Therefore, this is an important point. It is not enough to look at it from the surface and then say—"Oh we get 200,000, 300,000 or 100,000 gallons per annum." It could be double that, it could be more than that, provided there is proper supervision and proper methods of checking the finished product.

Also, what are the by-products. It is not only Petrol that they get from petroleum? There is a lot of by-products they get from oil? How many by-products do they get from all the oil and what are the qualities produced overseas? Furthermore, what is the rate of sale? How much are they selling in these countries and what are the markets?

Members might wonder why I am interested in this point. But all these are interwoven with the revenue coming from the sales. I am interested in this point, and on previous occasions I have made this point. We know from other countries, particularly in the Middle East where oil is produced and where oil companies had been downright dishonest, and particularly of the case of Persia where there was trouble. The Persian Oil Company or the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, as it was then called, and which sold oil to the British Army and Navy before the trouble at 50 per cent discount without the knowledge or consent of the Persian Government. What guarantee have we that the oil companies prospecting in this country are not selling to their own Governments or to other foreign Governments at a discount and not to our knowledge?

The Minister of Mines and Power relies only on the accounts submitted to him. He does not know how they arrive at the figures? He does not know how they compute the accounts? Although these points seem hair-splitting, yet they are very important to the revenue of this country. We cannot close our eyes to dishonest traders.

Again, Sir, as far as the revenue of this country is concerned, we might like to consider what is the effect of giving these oil companies pioneer status. What is the effect on the revenue of this country? Is it proper? Is it the type of company that should be given pioneer status? As far as I am concerned, I would say *no*.

The Deputy Speaker: I am sure the arguments of the hon. Mr Akinjide are very interesting, but perhaps they will be more interesting and more striking if he relates them to royalties.

Mr Akinjide: Well, for these reasons, Sir, I urge the Minister to tighten up security both here and overseas in respect of the finished products.

Sir, I beg to support.

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

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

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

Resolved: That this House notes with pleasure more and more successes in oil exploration and is of the opinion that the Federal Government should use the royalties accruing to the Federal Government in the economic development of the whole country, and that the present system of compensation to oil land-owners should continue.

PRIME MINISTER'S TOURS OF THE REGIONS

Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name. That this House congratulates the Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria, the hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, on his recent official tours of the Regions, and on the dignified and humorous manner in which he presented himself and the activities of the Federal Government to the people.

This Motion is really a simple one and it speaks for itself. As a person, the Prime Minister is well known to all of us and his activities are equally known. His activities are as clear as a moon lit night. I do not need to elaborate in order to point out his activities and the way he has presented himself to the entire public of this country during his tours. As I have said earlier, it is always good to give honour

to whom honour is due, to praise a man when he does something praiseworthy as well as it is manly to condemn and question a person who does something bad.

Most hon. Members here present met our Prime Minister during his tour in the Regions. Infact Members will agree with me that he actually gave and left an everlasting impression never to be forgotten by the people in the Regions. He has shown a spirit of tolerance, humility to the people. He really proved and taught the people a new adage—a king that is wise is always a humble servant of all. He is one whom I can describe as a wise and experienced politician of first class order, a great statesman of the day.

Towards the end of 1960, the Prime Minister made his first official visit to the Western Region, irrespective of political differences. When he went there, the way he presented himself to the people and the way he presented the activities of the Federal Government to the people of the Western Region made even all the Action Groupers to like him.

In January 1961, Sir, he paid an official visit to the Eastern Region. He visited many places like Enugu, Onitsha, Owerri, Port Harcourt, Umuahia, Awgu, Nsukka, The Nkalagu cement factory and Calabar. What a pleasure it was, Sir, to meet him at the Enugu airport! One could witness his bold smile when coming out of the aeroplane, the gentle manner in which he waved his hand to the people and the most diligent and humorous manner in which he moved slowly towards the young Premier of the Eastern Region, Dr M. I. Okpara.

During the tour, Sir, he made many presentations at the parties given in his honour and he also made some statements, not as a politician but as a bold statesman.

His speech at Calabar was an example. During his stay at Calabar, the people of Calabar started to agitate and complain against the Eastern Regional Government. The Prime Minister, bold as he was, paid them in thier own coins. He was a statesman—*(Interruption)*.

Mr A. E. Efiang-Spatts (Calabar): The people of Calabar did not complain. It was the Action Group Council at Calabar which complained against the Federal Government. So the people of Calabar should be ruled out of that.

Mr Chukwu: Mr Speaker, Sir, he is an able leader and he has left an everlasting impression on the people never to be forgotten. School children still have the memory of his visit to the Eastern Region. In some places they still call "Tafawa, Tafawa", and in some other places, like Awgu Division, they call him "Balewa" day in and day out.

The Prime Minister has not only won the interest and admiration of the people of this country, but he has also won the interest and admiration of the outside world. One can remember his first representations to the world assembly and the suggestion he made for the restoration of peace and order to the Congo. Also his bold stand on the South African issue will always be remembered.

Nigeria is really destined to be a great country and is the largest of the African states. As God has blessed this country with good leadership, I hope Nigeria will play her proper role in African affairs.

Sir, I beg to move.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is my privilege to second this Motion. There are various reasons why I wish to second the Motion. The first is that I had the privilege to join in one of those entourages that graced the Prime Minister's distinguished tour of the Eastern Region. The second is that the Prime Minister himself did me and my constituency the singular honour of stopping over, at a brief notice, and as the old saying goes: "Confidence begets confidence and honour begets honour". The third reason is that I am a keen admirer of genuine greatness in all its forms and hues. The Prime Minister, and all that his position embodies, are symbolic of genuine greatness and all that it connotes.

Now, Sir, there are five major reasons why this House should congratulate the Prime Minister on these tours. The first reason is that his recent tour of the Regions was an eloquent testimony of the great respect that the Prime Minister has for this honourable House. When this new Parliament assembled a little over a year ago it was the concensus of opinion and feeling that the Prime Minister should go round the country and meet the people he was leading. This was more than party politics for both sides of the House

[DR NZERIBE] shared equally in this feeling. This was because the hon. Members really understood that personal contact is a sound rock on which all diplomacy and human relations are built. At that time too, they were reflecting the wishes and yearnings of the 40 million people whom they represent in this House.

The Prime Minister's willingness to sympathise with the desires of this House even in the midst of tremendous official pressure is a testimony of his characteristic humility and fellow feeling. He realizes that we are, as it were, a canal through which the feelings, the hopes and frustrations of the 40 million people of Nigeria flow into this House.

There is a second reason why the Prime Minister deserves our unqualified commendation. Visits of statesmen or monarchs to the various people whom they lead are a way of indicating solidarity on interest and friendship. Tsar Alexander III's occasional trips to the countryside endeared him inseparably to his people during and after his reign. The visits of English and Dutch royalties undoubtedly influenced public opinion and the loyalty of their humble subjects.

Commenting on the heads of American governments Dr Palmer recently asserted—and I quote with your permission, Sir,—“In recent years heads of states have become ubiquitous features of the national landscape. They go from state to state so frequently that many of them have become commuters”. Of course, we would not like our Prime Minister to become a commuter. In modern government integrity alone is not enough. A favourable impression is created by both the deeds and the words of those who govern the people. But face to face contact gives it a finishing touch and loyalty does not exist in shadow. The Chinese have it that words are poor messengers and they mean oral words. One of the great weaknesses of the imperial system of government was that orders were handed down from ivory towers. But our Prime Minister's personal touch with the people here is an eloquent testimony of his willingness and ability to rule.

The third reason is a corollary of the second. Joseph Greo, a famous Ambassador to Japan, explained the supreme purpose and duty of a national leader in these words: “He must be, first and foremost, an interpreter, and this

function of interpretation acts in both ways. First of all, he tries to understand the country which he serves—its conditions, its mentality, its actions, and its underlying motives and to explain these things clearly to his government. He is an agent of mutual adjustment between the ideas and forces upon which both act”. Nothing summarises the spirit of this Motion more than this.

The Prime Minister may have visited the various parts of the country in the past. But he saw things there with the nude eyes of an ordinary citizen. Besides, the tempo and the temper of things have changed since then. Whatever his sufferings may be during those recent tours they were an inescapable adjunct of the important duty of wielding 40 million people, covering 372,000 sq. miles with 250 major tribes (possessing as many ethnic idiosyncrasies and languages), innumerable political parties some of which are headed by flamboyant and fire-eating leaders, into an individual and indivisible nation.

He met the various leaders, the heads of various cadres of government, the country folks, the intelligentsia, the youths, the school children and the labourers. He listened to the peoples' complaints, pleas, desires, hopes and frustrations—ranging from requests from an aerodrome, more roads, colleges, hospitals, police posts, railway extensions, allocation of plots, more jobs for youths and even requests to be installed as local chiefs. And also he became sensitive to peoples' feelings. He explained to them the aims and purposes of the Federal Government, the Defence Pact, the Commonwealth Relations Meetings, the U.N.O., the Niger Bridge project, *et cetera*.

Now, this is the fourth reason. The supreme importance of a symbol to the growing nation cannot be over emphasised. The Romans carried their fasces and the French carried their tricolour as a symbol. In Nigeria to-day the Government of the Federation is a symbol of unity and strength. (*Hear, hear.*) To Nigerians the Prime Minister and all that go with the formation of this great Government is a symbol of unity and strength. Throughout the Prime Minister's tour people throughout this country stressed this symbol more than anything else. It won almost a fanatical devotion. The Prime Minister himself became a personification of this idea of unity. The Prime Minister's tour was not

political. It thus demonstrated to the crusaders for certain personal causes that politics aside, Nigeria is one country, having one goal and one destiny. A new rapport was, therefore, established between the Government and the people governed.

Sir, the fifth reason why we should congratulate the Prime Minister is this—

The Deputy Speaker : Order, order. If the hon. Member intends to carry on for much longer, I think it is time I reminded him that the Delegate is on the dignity and honour of the Prime Minister.

Dr Nzeribe : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am saying here how the dignity of the Prime Minister added to the prestige of the people of Nigeria.

Nigerians are like other peoples of the world in many ways. One of these ways is their fondness and respect for people of humble origins who by hard work have become great people. The word literature is full of stories of janitors who end up as company directors. This is, perhaps, one of the greatest factors in the admiration the common people have for the Prime Minister and other dignitaries.

I remember that in one of the Addresses of welcome presented to the Prime Minister in Annang Division on the 31st of January, they said, "Born in 1912 in Tafawa Balewa, you spared no pains to endear yourself to the people of Northern Nigeria through your specialised services in the field of education, among which to mention just a few were your offices as an Headmaster, Bauchi Middle School, Education Assistant, *et cetera*. And then you wound up by becoming the leader of the Federation of Nigeria". (*Hear, hear*). And the Prime Minister in his characteristic simplicity and original sense of humour tapped this situation well. His dignity did not emanate from external pageantry and royal regalia; it was rather a natural blossoming of a deep seated sense of responsibility and a realisation... (*Interruptions*).....

The Deputy Speaker : Order, order. The volume of interruptions is becoming obstructive to the hearing of the reporters and I do pray the hon. Member to be less excited.

Dr Nzeribe : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am about to wind up. What I am saying is that the Prime Minister's dignity is not a result of

artificial regalia but a blossoming of a deep-seated sense of responsibility which has made him dear to the hearts of many people.

Hon. Members will agree that hon. Chuku and myself have made a worthy case and we hope that this Motion will receive a universal and unanimous approval.

Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Deputy Speaker : I may say I am unable to call Mr Ogbalu's amendment since it contravenes Standing Order No. 20 as to the relevancy of the substantive Motion. Therefore the question is in terms of the Motion.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Mr P. E. Ekamen (Enyong South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I think we have got to give thanks where such is due. It was from both sides of this House that we urged the Prime Minister to travel so that those in the rural areas, in the Regions, may know him. Hitherto, he was only known in the North, as far as I know. He was later on known in the Western Region and was finally known in the Eastern Region. Unfortunately, Sir, the tour of the Prime Minister nearly would have been disturbed in the Eastern Region because certain N.C.N.C. provincial organising Secretaries incidentally called Commissioners wanted to play politics into the fold.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : I am afraid, Sir, the hon. Member is misinforming the House. The Provincial Commissioners appointed by the Regional Government are not organising secretaries of the N.C.N.C.

Mr Ekanem : Mr Speaker, Sir, it is our pleasure, and that of the majority tribes in the Eastern Region that our Prime Minister came and saw and was satisfied that he is ruling a country which hitherto he did not know much. Mr Speaker, I say that in the areas it was the N.C.N.C. organising secretaries who could have made it impossible for most of us who are Members of this House, colleagues of the Prime Minister, to see the Prime Minister and say welcome to him.

An hon. Member : Are you a colleague of the Prime Minister ?

Mr Ekanem : Yes, we are colleagues as far as politics is concerned. We all came through the ballot box; therefore we are colleagues.

[MR EKANEM]

Mr Speaker, Sir, all I would ask is this. The tour should not be carried out only once in each new year or during the life of any Parliament. Although he has much to do, he has many responsibilities, but from time to time it will be a pleasure to this country, the pleasure to all the people in the Regions to see the Prime Minister often. But I should like to sound a note of warning that when the Prime Minister travels out he does not do so as a politician; he does not travel out under the auspices of any political party. He should travel out under the auspices of the Federal Government in which all the parties are represented. Therefore no political party, be it the N.P.C., the N.C.N.C. or the Action Group or any of the minor political parties, should interrupt the Prime Minister's tour.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in our area it is true, as one hon. Member has said, the name "Balewa" is sung by scholars not because he is a politician but because he is the head of the Federal Government of Nigeria. And I must say again, Sir, that this Motion which passes to him an appreciation of his tour is not opposed by this side of the House. (*Hear, hear*). But I will only warn that whenever it is time for any Minister, not only the Prime Minister, to take a tour of the country he should bear in mind that he is a messenger of the people as a whole and not of any political party. So it is not only the Prime Minister, but any Minister, who should not content himself by informing a section of the people when he is going on a tour. He should announce it to Members of this House in particular so that appropriate arrangement could be made to receive whoever he is.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Motion.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana): Mr Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Government I accept the Motion. (*Hear, hear*). And I want to say, Sir, that the tour of the Prime Minister to the two Regions is a fulfilment of a promise made on the Floor of this House last year that when time permits the Prime Minister will take a tour of the Federation. May I take this opportunity to thank all the Regional Governments who have made the tour a very huge formidable.

But, Sir, I want to reply to one point made by my hon. Friend, Mr Ekanem, on the question of the tour of the Prime Minister. When the Prime Minister goes on tour it is the duty of the Regional Government to detail the programme, or the itinerary which states out exactly what places might be visited. (*Interruption*).

Mr Speaker : Order ; you must not interrupt him.

Mr Lana : So the question of any political interference in any Region is not the concern of the Prime Minister. In the case of the Eastern Region, I want to say that there appears to be some sort of devolution of power in that Region. The Regional Government accepted that the Prime Minister should tour the East and the Government also gave instructions to the Provincial Commissioners who are virtually in charge of the Provinces. I think they are legally right to make any arrangement as instructed by their own Government. I think Mr Ekanem is wrong to say that the Prime Minister did not see other political parties. I remember we met you, Mr Ekanem, at Uyo.....

Mr Ekanem : I did not say so because the Prime Minister was not undertaking a political tour.

Mr Lana : I remember we met Mr Ekanem and other colleagues of his in the Action Group at Uyo as well as the Commissioner and the N.C.N.C. members and they gave us a very tremendous welcome. So, I think, Sir, I need educate him on the point that whenever the Prime Minister goes on tour he does not plan the tour from here in Lagos, but all Regional Governments plan the tour for him. I want to say again, Sir, that we are really very grateful to the Regional Governments for the detailed arrangements they made to make this tour a success. The Prime Minister really enjoyed it and I want to take this opportunity to repeat what the Prime Minister usually says on the question of unity of this country. Throughout the period of his two tours he laid emphasis on the question of unity and I think we can take a leaf from the activities of the Prime Minister so that we can build this great country into something very valuable.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House congratulates the Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria, the hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, on his recent official tours of the Regions, and on the dignified and humorous manner in which he presented himself and the activities of the Federal Government to the people.

RECRUITMENT OF LABOUR FOR FERNANDO
PO AND KAMEROUN REPUBLIC

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): Mr Speaker, Sir, we have heard this morning the Government statement made by the hon. Minister of Labour to the effect that he proposes some time next month to carry out a tour composed of some Members of this House, the Regional Ministers of Labour and a Member of the Senate to the Island of Fernando Po. I therefore consider it rather premature to proceed with the Motion. Since the tour is pending. I know the attitude of the Government. The Government is going to turn round and say, "look we are sending a delegation which will come and report to this House. I only wish to say that the proposed tour should not suffer the same fate as other tours, namely, they will go there, see what they can whether good or bad and come and report to this House. I have many facts to put forward, but I feel very much that if I—(Interruptions).

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Abaja and Ngwo): On a point of order, Sir, according to the statement of Mr Ekanem, it appears that he is not moving the Motion; and if he is not moving the Motion, there is no reason for him to speak on it.

Mr Speaker: I am not yet able to know whether he is moving the Motion or not, and that has to come from him rather than from you.

Mr Ekanem: Mr Speaker, Sir, thank you for your protection. Those people there, who know nothing about labour, always interfere with labour problems in this country. I want to make it very clear that we who were labour leaders in this country have been lucky to come to this House. We play no politics when it comes to the question of the workers' lives.

I would say, as I have said before, that I am not moving this Motion. I may do so at some remote future date, pending the result and the report available to this House of the Minister's proposed tour.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not move.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): I do not know whether I will be in order to speak on my Amendment.

Several hon. Members: No, no; the Motion was not moved.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): On the Motion on public holidays, I have been informed that the Government is considering the question of public holidays and will soon make an announcement. In view of that, I do not move.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

TARRING OF ABAKALIKI-IKOM ROAD

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Izi South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper, That, in view of the secession of the Southern Cameroons from the Federation of Nigeria, and for the purposes of security and border defence, this House is of the opinion that the Abakaliki-Ikom Trunk Road A be completely reconstructed and tarred for easy movement of police and troops in cases of emergency.

Sir, with the secession of the Southern Cameroons from the Federation of Nigeria, the Trunk Road A between Abakaliki and Ikom has become very important. It is most likely that there may be some border disturbances, and if there is no good road connecting us with the Southern Cameroons, it will be difficult for us, to protect our border in cases of emergency.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Abaja and Ngwo): I beg to second, Sir.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the amendment standing in my name on the Order Paper, in Line 2, to leave out from the second "and" to end and add—"other events, this

[MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY]
House is of the opinion that the Abakaliki-Ikom Trunk Road A be reconstructed and tarred as soon as funds become available".

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Sir, I beg to second.

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

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

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

Resolved: That, in view of the secession of the Southern Cameroons from the Federation of Nigeria, and for purposes of security and other events, this House is of the opinion that the Abakaliki-Ikom Trunk Road A be reconstructed and tarred as soon as funds become available.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. It is now 5.45 p.m. and under the Standing Orders, I must interrupt the Business.

Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 8) Order

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 8) Order, 1960 (Legal Notice No. 195 of 1960), a copy of which was laid before this House on 11th April, be confirmed.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada):

Sir, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 8) Order, 1960 (Legal Notice No. 195 of 1960), a copy of which was laid before this House on 11th April, be confirmed.

Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 9) Order

The Minister of Finance: Mr Speaker, Sir I beg to move, That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 9) Order, 1960 (Legal Notice No. 192 of 1960), a copy of which was laid before this House on 11th April, be confirmed.

The Minister of Works and Surveys: Sir, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 9) Order, 1960 (Legal Notice No. 192 of 1960), a copy of which was laid before this House on the 11th April, be confirmed.

Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 10) Order

The Minister of Finance: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 10) Order, 1960 (Legal Notice No. 194 of 1960), a copy of which was laid before this House on 11th April, be confirmed.

The Minister of Works and Surveys: Sir, I beg to second.

Question put agreed to.

Resolved, That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 10 Order, 1960 (Legal Notice No. 194 of 1960), a copy of which was laid before this House on 11th April, be confirmed.

Excise Duties (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1960

The Minister of Finance: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, That the Excise Duties (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1960 (Legal Notice No. 193 of 1960), a copy of which was laid before this House on 11th April, be confirmed.

The Minister of Works and Surveys: Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South): We know, Mr Speaker, that the hon. Minister of Finance needs money and that he needs all these Resolutions to rake up money for the country. We only pray him to use the money judiciously.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Excise Duties (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1960 (Legal Notice No. 193 of 1960), a copy of which was laid before this House on 11th April, be confirmed.

Rubber (Inspection for Export) (Amendment) Regulations 1960

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, That the Rubber (Inspection for Export) (Amendment)

Regulations, 1960 (Legal Notice No. 5 of 1961), a copy of which was laid before this House on 13th April, be approved.

The Minister of Establishments (Hon. Shehu Shagari) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Rubber (Inspection for Export) (Amentment) Regulations, 1960 (Legal Notice No. 5 of 1961), a copy of which was laid before this House on 13th April, be approved.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr Speaker : I have notices of question on Adjournment. One is from Mr Mordi.

Mr E. A. Mordi (Asaba East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, it is with a distressed mind that I rise on this Motion for Adjournment to alert this House of the great unrest that now obtains in the Mid-West Area, particularly in Asaba Division and Aniocha District area. I have here, Sir, telegrams from the area, no less than six of them, reporting that the N.C.N.Cers in the area are all now being dumped into prison on the pretext that these people are tax defaulters.

The fact of the case, Sir, is that early this year, all the N.C.N.Cers were served with demand notices of income tax ranging from about £500 to £10—farmers for that matter, Sir—and these people had appealed against the assessments. The conditions for the appeal were laid down in the Income Tax Law by the Western Region, which stipulated that the people have to pay one-quarter of the assessed amount and then deposit 5s as the appeal fee.

The people carried out these conditions; they made their appeals constitutionally; their appeals were accepted and the monies paid were receipted. Since last week, Sir, when the Motion of the Mid-West was passed in this House the Councils have ordered that these tax appellants should be prosecuted immediately in the Customary Courts, and these telegrams all report of mass imprisonment.

Sir, I regard this as a most distressing situation; I regard it as glaring injustice and in fact, to me it amounts to nothing but a

desecration of the fundamental human rights for which the Federal Government stands. I feel that the question of law and order is a consultative matter between the Regions and the Federal Government and, in fact, where there is a clash I think the decision of the Federal Government must have to stand supreme.

It is on this score that I am calling on the Minister of Internal Affairs to make a statement to this House in unequivocal terms as to whether the freedom won for this country is best for only a particular people to enjoy or whether the freedom won for this country is meant for all of us. I believe it is for all of us, and so I am asking that the Minister make a statement to this effect and try to redeem the people from the injustice that now exists.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. Mallam Usman Sarki, Sardaunan Bida) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am shocked and ashamed at the statement now made by the hon. Member. Shocked, for this, if true, constitutes a denial of legal rights which strikes not merely at the unfortunate victims of a narrow-minded Council, but at the basic rights of every citizen. I am ashamed that, six months after independence, the world must know from the proceedings right here in Parliament that in spite of our Constitution, in spite of the great promises our politicians made to the world when we emerged into nationhood, there are still people here—

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : Point of order, Sir, I listened to the speech of the Mover and from all—(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker : Order ! You must allow the hon. Member to raise his point of order.

Chief Olugbade : And from all that one could see from that speech, it is an allegation that some people who belong to a certain political party were assessed for income tax in a certain Region, and were charged to Court in that Region, and some of them were imprisoned in that Region. I am wondering, Sir, whether the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Federal Government would be acting properly—(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! If the hon. Member wishes to contribute to the debate by raising a point of order, I can allow it, but

to make a speech or any other explanation, when the Minister does not give way, I do not think he is entitled to do so.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I was asking for the ruling of the Speaker on this point of order because it would appear to me that the hon. Minister would be going outside the province of his portfolio, since there is a Legislature in the Region where these allegations are supposed to occur and where there are representatives of the particular political party in that Legislature. Furthermore, Sir, there is a right of appeal by the people who are alleged to have been arrested or imprisoned. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! This allegation has been made by hon. Mordi, and it is for the Minister to say whether this allegation is true or not, and I think I shall have to listen to the Minister a little more before I shall be able to know whether the Minister is out of order or not.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : Mr Speaker, Sir, I was saying that six months after independence, the world must know from the proceedings right here in Parliament that in spite of our Constitution, in spite of the great promises our politicians made to the world when we emerged into nationhood, there are still people here who so far forget themselves as to turn their political power into a vehicle of oppression for the sake of striking down their political opponents. I am ashamed of that. (*Shame, shame*).

Who do these people in Aniocha think they are that they so abuse their office and, by that fact, say to the world "We are not fit for self-government"? That they themselves are not fit, I entirely agree, but this Action Group Council cannot be allowed to despise our Constitution so recklessly. (*Hear, hear*).

Our Constitution is not a dead letter, but a living dynamic force, that will grow and change according to our needs. Now, in our Constitution, this is a matter for the Western Region Government, and we say to them "Put your house in order. Stop this nonsense in Aniocha

and stop it at once ! (*Applause*). It is you who have the Constitutional responsibility at present, and if you are not willing to discharge it in regard to the protection of the ordinary man, we will not hesitate to take whatever constitutional steps are needed to be able to do so ourselves." (*Loud applause*).

The Federal Government respects Regional rights, but it also demands that Regional Governments discharge their duties to all men without fear or favour, without malice or affection, for only in that way can true liberty flourish. The Federal Government demands that every governmental institution under them does the same.

Our sympathy lies with those unfortunate people whose liberty is being abused by misuse of the law. Our voices speak to the Western Regional Government, telling them to do something about it in time, for our minds are made up and determined that nobody beneath the National Flag need fear the least pressure if it is within our power to prevent it. (*Loud applause*).

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity to associate myself with Mr Mordi on the reign of terror that is very rampant in the Western Region. It is very unfortunate that a Government like the Action Group Government will hide under the cloak of the constitutional power vested in them to oppress and suppress political opponents for minor offences.

Sir, just recently, mass arrests of people at Ibadan for mere tax evasion were conducted and I think about 300 have been gaoled so far within a month, and I am very happy about the speech of the Minister for Internal Affairs. I wish the Federal Government would do something to see that they keep a proper check on the Regional Government controlled by the Action Group.

Mr Speaker : Order. These blows are too big for the Action Group. I think it is now 6 o'clock and under Standing Orders, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow.

Adjourned accordingly at 6 o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Wednesday, 19th April, 1961

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

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

(1) The Second International Tin Agreement (Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1961).

(2) Educational Development, 1961-70 (Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1961).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ESTABLISHMENTS

Lump Sum Compensation Scheme

*O.142. **M. Yushau A. Mohammed** asked the Minister of Establishments, how many expatriate officers retired under the Lump Sum Compensation Scheme; and what is the total amount of compensation and other retiring benefits paid to them so far.

The Minister of Establishments and Service Matters : On the 1st of October, 1960 there were 809 pensionable expatriate officers in the Federal Public Service who were entitled to lump sum compensation. Of this number 27 were members of Special List 'A'; that is, they are regarded as having joined the service of the United Kingdom Government from which they are merely seconded to the Federal Public Service. These officers may be considered as having elected to forego their right to compensation.

Of the remaining 782 officers, 738 were members of Special List 'B' and the remaining 44 were not members of either Special List. Up to the 31st of March, 1961, 138 of the Special List 'B' officers had retired and had been paid their full compensation and the remaining 600 had been paid 90% of the amount due to them at the date of Independence in accordance with the terms of the Special List 'B' agreement. During the same period 26 of the 44 officers who were members of neither special list had also retired with their full compensation.

The overall position is therefore that, of the 782 officers who were entitled to compensation at the date of Independence, 164 have since been paid in full and further 600 have received 90% of their entitlement. The total amount which has been paid out is £3,110,000 which represents roughly 90% of the Federal Government's total compensation liability. Of this amount £1,500,000 has been advanced to the Federal Government by the United Kingdom Government in the form of an interest-free loan.

The officers who have retired or will retire under the compensation scheme are also entitled, of course, to the pensions which they have earned during their service in Nigeria. Pensions are an annual recurrent expenditure however and it is not possible to state precisely how much has been paid to a constantly varying group of officers on this account at any particular time.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : Is the Minister aware that some of the expatriate officers who have taken their lump sum compensation and went away are finding their way back in increasing numbers into our Corporations and Government institutions at present ?

The Minister of Establishments : I am aware.

*O.217. **Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Establishments, how many expatriate civil servants holding key posts have left the service since 1st October, 1960; and how much will the Federal Government pay as lump sum compensation to these officers.

The Minister of Establishments : A total of 315 expatriate officers have notified their intention of retiring from the Federal Public Service between 1st October, 1960 and June 1962. Of these, 63 are officers who hold (or held) posts of Deputy Permanent Secretary (including Administrative Officers Class I) or Deputy Head of Department and above. The number of such officers who retired from the Service up to the end of March, 1961 is 34 and a total of £191,997 is being paid to them by way of lump sum compensation.

The remaining 29 officers will leave the Service at varying times between 1st April, 1961 and 30th June, 1962 and the amount to be paid to them in lump sum compensation is expected to be in the region of £193,777.

COMMUNICATIONS

Licence Fees

*O.143. M. Ali Gwarzo asked the Minister of Communications why Government will not arrange with the commercial concerns to collect licence fees on its behalf, by adding the amount of the fee to the purchase price of radio and television sets.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Careful consideration has already been given to various alternative methods for the collection of revenue on radio and television sets. These include the imposition of an additional import duty and of a sales tax. The objection to the adoption of either of these methods is that it would increase the initial outlay which would have to be made by the purchaser at the actual time of purchase, thereby militating against Government's policy of encouraging the sale of cheap radio sets in an increasing number and to increase the number of radio listeners. It has accordingly been decided that the present licensing arrangements should continue.

Telephone Facilities

*O.144. M. Ali Gwarzo asked the Minister of Communications, if, in view of the growing commercial and educational importance of certain District Headquarters such as Dambatta, Gwarzo, Bici and Wudil in Kano Province he will provide these towns with telephone facilities.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Funds are not available in the current Economic Programme to provide telephone service at Dambatta, Gwarzo, Bici or Wudil. Consideration will, however, be given to the claims of these areas when the next Development Programme is planned.

Bauchi Post Office

O.145. Mr Balarabe Tafawa Balewa asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider enlarging the post office at Bauchi and providing a daily mail service, in view of the rapid development of the area.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : It is regretted that there is no financial provision in the

current Development Programme for enlarging Bauchi Post Office. Consideration will be given to the inclusion of this project in the next Economic Programme.

The existing motor mail services between Bauchi and Jos operate three days a week. It is hoped to increase this frequency with the opening of the new railway service between Bauchi and Jos, probably in July 1961.

Telephone Lines

O.146. Mr D. N. Abii asked the Minister of Communications, how much the eight million people of Eastern Nigeria will have to pay in order to instal more telephone lines to operate through Enugu and Aba, as the existing single line is usually out of order.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : There are at present nine telephone trunk circuits between Enugu and Aba, but they are all carried on one route. Equipment is now being installed to provide an additional route between Aba and Enugu *via* Onitsha, which will give an alternative means of service if the direct route is out of order. Proposals are also in hand to install a radio trunk between Enugu and Aba.

The cost of this equipment is being met from funds provided by the Federal Government for telecommunications development, and no direct charge for the additional facilities will fall on Eastern Nigeria.

Telecommunication Services

O.147. Mr D. N. Abii asked the Minister of Communications if he is aware that telecommunication services in the Northern and Eastern Regions are most inadequate.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : No, Sir. Much has been achieved during the current Telecommunications Development programme to provide an adequate telecommunication system throughout the Federation. For example, the number of telephones in use in the Eastern Region has increased since 1955 from 2,825 to over 7,000; in the Northern Region, the number of instruments has risen from 4,420 to over 8,400 during the same period. In addition, 17 new telephone exchanges have been provided, and many new trunk circuits have been brought into service.

It is recognised, however, that in certain areas of the Federation as a whole, telecom-

munications services are inadequate. Everything possible will be done to provide telecommunication facilities in these areas during the period of the next Economic Programme. The hon. Member will appreciate, however, that the extent of any such development will depend upon the availability of capital funds and executive capacity.

Cable and Wireless Ltd.

*O.148. Mr D. N. Abii asked the Minister of Communications, whether direct calls can be made from Nigeria to our Ambassador in London without using the services of Messrs Cable and Wireless Ltd.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : At present all external telecommunications to and from Nigeria are operated through Cable and Wireless Limited, and it is not therefore possible to make calls to London without using the services of that Company.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : We agree that this particular case puts certain aspects of our security in jeopardy and I wonder whether a strong case has not been made for the termination of this agreement.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The hon. Member will remember that, in his address to the House last Thursday, the hon. Minister of Communications said that, in the near future, he would take steps to review the relationship between Cable and Wireless Limited and the Ministry of Communications.

Mr D. N. Abii : Will the Parliamentary Secretary explain what he means by "in the near future" ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Precisely, I mean as soon as possible or in the near future.

Mr Abii : Will the Minister tell us what he means by "as soon as possible". This is a matter that affects the whole nation. We want the thing *now*.

Telephone Facilities in the Federation

*O.221. Mr D. O. Ahamefule asked the Minister of Communications, if he plans to provide telephone facilities in every district in the Federation ; and whether Mbani District, in Okigwi Division, is included in the programme.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : It is the policy of the Federal Government, as stated in Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957, to bring telephone or telegraph facilities to every Administrative Headquarters in the Federation, and considerable progress has been made to this end in the course of the current Economic Programme.

Mbani in the Okigwi Division is not, however, included in the present Economic Programme, but its claim will be carefully considered for inclusion in the 1962-67 programme.

Communal Erection of Post Offices

O.222. Mr D. O. Ahamefule asked the Minister of Communications, whether provisions exist for supplying plans of modern post office buildings to districts desirous of putting up such buildings by communal labour ; and if, on the completion of such buildings, Government will take them over for postal services.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Application for plans for an approved type post office may be made by local authorities to any of the three Posts and Telegraphs Territorial Controllers at Kaduna, Ibadan or Enugu or to the Postal Controller, Lagos.

Full details of the Community Self-Help Schemes are set out in paragraphs 25 and 26 of Sessional Paper No. 4/1957.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : May I know what provisions are required of a community wishing to put up a sub-post office ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The Community Self-Help Schemes in the Sessional Paper show that the following conditions are prescribed :—

"When any community desires to construct a sub-post office by voluntary effort and obtains the approval of the Department, provided that the office to be constructed is of a Departmental type design, a grant of £500 will be made to the community under the following conditions :—

- (1) The title to the building and land must be vested in the local authority.

(2) The building must be constructed to standards approved by the Public Works Department.

(3) The local community, through the local authority, must agree to make the building available to the Department as a sub-post office.

(4) Should the Department, at a later date, require the building as a Departmental Post Office, the local authority must agree to convey it to the Federal Government at the value of the land at the time of the erection of the building plus the capital cost of the building at the time of construction depreciated by one-twentieth for every year the building has been in use.

(5) Should the local authority at any time fail to make the building available as a sub-post office it will refund to the Department the capital grant of £500 less £25 per annum for each year the building has been in use.

(6) In addition, the Department will furnish or equip the Post Office up to a cost of £500".

Angara Postal Agency

*O.223. Mr D. O. Ahamefule asked the Minister of Communications, what was the volume of business transacted at Angara Postal Agency in Okigwi Division for the period 1st January to 28th February, 1961.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: The volume of business transacted at Angara Postal Agency in Okigwi Division for the period 1st January to 28th of February, 1961, was 2,961 units.

Telephone Services at Ogoja and Obudu

*O.224. Mr J. U. Odey asked the Minister of Communications, when it is proposed to open to the public telephone services at Ogoja and Obudu.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: It is expected that telephone services at Ogoja and Obudu will be opened within the next few months.

Installation of Trunk Telephone Service

*O.225. M. Usman Turaki asked the Minister of Communications why the installation of a trunk telephone service at Kontagora has been delayed for five months.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: Although the telephone trunk route to Kontagora has been completed, delay in providing telephone service has been occasioned by the fact that the local subscribers' network of lines has not been completed due to a shortage of certain items of stores. It is anticipated that the exchange will be opened in the near future.

Alhaji M. Aliyu, Sarkin Puloti (Dange Shuni): When is the "near future"?

Telephone Service at Zuru

*O.226. M. Usman Turaki asked the Minister of Communications, how soon Zuru town will be provided with a telephone service.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: Provision has been made in Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957 for a telephone trunk route connecting Zungeru-Kontagora-Yelwa and Zuru. The section Zungeru-Kontagora has already been completed. It is hoped to commence work on the section Kontagora-Yelwa in the near future and to complete this construction early in 1962. It is anticipated that construction of the remaining section Yelwa-Zuru will be completed during 1962.

Mail Delivery Service to Kontagora

*O.227. M. Usman Turaki asked the Minister of Communications if he will consider increasing the bi-weekly mail delivery service to Kontagora to a thrice-weekly one in order to meet public demand.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: No, Sir. It is not considered that the volume of traffic warrants a thrice-weekly mail delivery service between Zungeru and Kontagora, which at present operates twice weekly. The mail delivery service between Kontagora, Zuru and Yelwa was increased from once to twice weekly as recently as the 1st of January this year. It is not considered that a further increase is at present warranted.

Extension of Telephone Facilities at Ahoada

O.228. Mr N. E. Elenwa asked the Minister of Communications whether he plans this year to extend telephone facilities at Ahoada to private houses, firms and Government offices.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : A rural call office at Ahoada is included in the current Telecommunications Development Programme and was opened on 14th December, 1960.

Consideration will be given to providing exchange facilities at Ahoada in the next Telecommunications Development Programme.

Sub-Post Office at Omoku

O.229. Mr N. E. Elenwa asked the Minister of Communications, what is delaying the official opening of the sub-post office at Omoku, since the defects have been rectified.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The sub-post office building has not yet been accepted by the Regional Ministry of Works. An inspection was made by that Ministry in December 1960, when further defects were discovered and reported to the Omoku Community League. As soon as the Community has rectified the defects, another inspection will be made.

Mr Elenwa : Is the Minister aware that the officer of the Ministry of Works who came to inspect that building demanded the greasing of his palm before he could submit a favourable report?

The Minister of Communications : The Officer of the Ministry of Works is not an officer of the Ministry of Communications.

Post Offices and Postal Agencies

O.230. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Communications, how many post offices and postal agencies there are in Onitsha North Central Constituency; and if he will state where they are located.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : In the Onitsha North Central Constituency there is one Post Office located at Ogidi, one sub-post office located at Oba, and 10 Postal Agencies, located at the following places:—

Abatete, Alo, Awka-Etiti, Nkpor, Nnobi, Obosi, Ojoto, Oraukwu, Uke and Umuoji.

Post Office at Diobu

O.231. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa asked the Minister of Communications what arrangements he has made for the opening of a full post office at Diobu.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : No arrangements have been made for the opening of a full Post Office at Diobu during the current Development Programme. However, as the Diobu Postal Agency has attained 45,218 units of business, which is well above the minimum figure prescribed in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 for the establishment of a Departmental Post Office, provision will be sought for the establishment of a full Departmental Post Office at Diobu in the next Economic Programme.

Conversion of Postal Agencies

***O.232. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** asked the Minister of Communications, if it is now possible to convert the postal agencies of Obia, Nkarahia (Isiokpo) and Elele to sub-post offices.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The units of business transacted at Obia Postal Agency amount to 25,706. The Agency thus qualifies for conversion to sub-post office status, and this is being pursued.

The 1960-61 units of business for Nkarahia and Elele are 10,476 and 12,601 respectively. Neither Agency meets the figure of 24,000 units prescribed for conversion to sub-post office status in paragraph 13 of Sessional Paper No. 4/1957.

Telecommunications Facilities

***O.233. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** asked the Minister of Communications, when he proposes to add telecommunication facilities to the post office at Imo River.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Telegraph facilities are already provided at Imo River, but it is regretted that funds are not available at present to provide telephone service. The claims of Imo River will be considered when plans for the next Telecommunications Development Programme are drawn up.

Completion of Obubra Post Office

34. Mr U. U. Eko asked the Minister of Communications how soon the post office at Obubra will be completed; and whether he will consider increasing the number of telephones in the station.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: The new Post Office at Obubra will be put into service on 1st May, 1961. The possibility of increasing the number of telephones at Obubra will be considered when the next Telecommunications Development Programme is prepared.

Conversion of Postal Agencies

*O.235. Mr U. U. Eko asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will consider the advisability of converting either Ugep or Ediba Postal Agency into a full post office in view of the fact that these agencies are thirty-four and forty miles away respectively from the main post office at Obubra.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: The 1960-61 units of business transacted at Ugep and Ediba were 21,101 and 9,515 respectively. Neither of the two Agencies qualifies for conversion to Sub-Post Office or to Departmental Post Office under the terms of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.

*O.236. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Communications, whether Amakohia and Nsu Postal Agencies in Okigwi Division will now be converted into Sub-Post Offices in view of the large volume of postal transactions being carried out at these agencies; and why has the request for the introduction of savings bank facilities in these two agencies been refused.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: No, Sir. Neither of the two Postal Agencies yet qualifies for conversion to a Sub-Post Office. Their current annual units of business transacting are 18,647 at Amakohia, and 14,072 at Nsu. Under Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, a Postal Agency is required to transact a minimum of 24,000 units of business a year before consideration can be given to its conversion to a Sub-Post Office.

No formal request for the introduction of savings bank facilities at either of these two Postal Agencies has yet been received

by the Territorial Controller, Enugu, to whom such requests should be addressed.

Posts and Telegraphs Advisory Board

*O.238. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Communications whether the Posts and Telegraphs Engineering Workers' Union of Nigeria are denied representation on the Posts and Telegraphs Advisory Board; and if he will make a statement on this issue.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: There is no Union representation on the Posts and Telegraphs Advisory Council as that body is at present constituted. Certain of the Posts and Telegraphs Unions have advocated such representation, and the matter has received careful consideration. The views of the Unions are always welcomed and are given due weight in the formulation of Posts and Telegraphs policy.

This matter may be re-examined when the Nigerian Posts and Telecommunications Administration is re-organised in the near future.

Mr Speaker: It is now half past ten and no further questions will be taken. The answers to the remaining questions will be published in to-day's *Hansard*.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The Minister of Establishments and Service Matters (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members will recall that I had said earlier in this House that the Nigerianisation Division of my Ministry was compiling a Guide to Careers in the Federal Public Service. I am glad to say that the Guide is now ready for publication and that copies will be made available to Members. (*Hear, hear*).

The Guide is written primarily for school leavers and undergraduates, but will be of use and interest to parents, teachers and others concerned with the careers of young people.

In many countries to-day most boys and girls have to decide on what careers they wish to enter long before they finish their training. Many choose a job in the Civil Service for many different reasons. One may have chosen it because the idea of public

service attracted him, or because his father was a civil servant or because the service offers a reasonable pay and security. Whatever the reason may be it is most important that one must receive proper guidance before he makes his decision, for unless he does so he is likely to find himself in a wrong employment, and then has to start looking round again for another appointment. The purpose of the Guide to Careers is to assist a young boy or girl to make the right choice of career in the Public Service.

The Guide describes the functions and duties of the various Divisions of Ministries and Departments, gives detailed information about the posts, both junior and senior, in those Divisions and Departments, the qualifications required for these posts, how such qualifications may be obtained, prospects of further promotion, etc. As a work of reference it will aid the Careers Masters and Mistresses in schools and Colleges to prepare their pupils for jobs which they are best suited to undertake.

The Civil Service provides a wide range of interesting and exciting jobs, as the Guide will show, and the activities are so varied that there is practically work to suit every taste. And while we talk of Nigerianisation, I should make it clear that we need only those Nigerians who are prepared to make the Government Service a career, Nigerians who are willing to subordinate their personal ambitions to the true interests of their country, and Nigerians who will be able to find pleasure and the satisfaction of serving their country to the full.

In view of the importance of the Guide I have given instructions that copies should be distributed to all schools, colleges, higher institutions of learning and employment agencies in Nigeria and also to the institutions and agencies outside Nigeria which have regular contacts with Nigerian students and other persons seeking employment in Nigeria. (Applause).

NOTICE OF MOTION

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Proceedings on Government Business be exempted Tomorrow from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 6 p.m., Mr Speaker, shall suspend the sitting until 9 p.m.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Prince T. A. Lamuye): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Proceedings on Government Business be exempted Tomorrow from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 6 p.m., Mr Speaker shall suspend the sitting until 9 p.m.

ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1961-62) BILL

(FIFTH ALLOTTED DAY): *Considered in Committee of Supply.*

(House in Committee)

HEAD 49.—MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Question proposed, That £164,810 for Head 49—Ministry of Justice—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. R. U. Muojeke (Awka Central): I thank the Chairman for giving me the opportunity to speak on this Head. When one looks through the Estimates, one would see that the Ministry is well staffed and adequately supervised. This is due to the sagacity, foresight and intelligence of our respected Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. (*Hear, hear*). This is as it should be because the Attorney-General is the watchdog to see that justice is maintained in the country.

There are a few points that I would like to touch and one of them is the relationship which should exist between the Attorney-General and the Director of Public Prosecutions. It is a burning question but very very important. In civilised countries, the relationship is one of subordination. The Director of Public Prosecutions should be subordinate to the Attorney-General. There is no major prosecution whether political or otherwise that should be initiated without prior consultation with and approval of the Attorney-General.

A lot has been said in the Press, but I think the people who are advocating that the duties of the Director of Public Prosecutions should be separated from those of the Attorney-General are saying so with sinister motives. Their intentions are not honest, neither genuine nor supported by what is done in other civilised countries.

[MR MUOJEKE]

The second point is this question of the harm that is being done to the country because the Judiciary in Nigeria is regionalised. There are many recent cases of abuse; some cases were prosecuted—

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Point of Order, Mr Chairman. The speaker is comparing things in civilised countries. Is he trying to make us believe that this country is not civilised, Sir? (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: That is a point of information.

Mr Muojeke: I am sorry to say that the Minister of Labour does not seem to understand what I am saying. My duty here is to compare what should be done in this country with what is being done in other civilised countries. In a way, the meaning which should be attached to my own statement is that Nigeria is a civilised country and, if it is civilised, it follows that what obtains in civilised countries should also obtain here.

I go back to the point I was making before I was disturbed. Because the Judiciary in this country is regionalised there are recent cases in the Regions, and I am sorry to say that this is more rampant in the Western Region, where people are just bundled to the customary courts. I know that if the Federal Attorney-General were to see to those cases of political prosecutions he could not have given his sanction, and I am here asking the Attorney-General to use his good offices to find ways and means of amending the constitution so that even if the Judiciary cannot be made a federal subject, important and major political prosecutions cannot be initiated by any Region without the consent of the Attorney-General of the Federation. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order, order. These interruptions are getting too much. I think hon. Members must refrain from persistent interruption, particularly on my left.

Mr Muojeke: As an example of what I am saying, Mr Chairman, recently the then Acting Prime Minister was bundled to court because it was alleged a house that was non-existent was damaged—

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South): Point of Order, Mr Chairman. There is an appeal pending in respect of the matter to which my hon. Friend is referring, and as such it is *sub judice* and this House cannot properly discuss it.

The Chairman: I think in that respect I should ask the hon. Member to depart from that irrelevant matter.

Mr Muojeke: Mr Chairman, we all know the tactics, and I need not go into it further than to say that he should not have been prosecuted at all. My final point is this.

An hon. Member: Point of Order. I think the question is not irrelevant because it can go on appeal to the Federal Supreme Court.

The Chairman: A matter the decision on which is pending in a court of law cannot be discussed on the Floor of this House.

Mr Muojeke: I am no longer discussing that point. I am making another point, Mr Chairman, and that is that most of our law books are becoming frightfully dear, and of course it is said that justice should not be sold.

Let us take for example the Criminal Code. The Criminal Code that cost five shillings only two years ago is now being sold for fifteen shillings. This also applies to the Criminal Procedure Ordinance. And we also know that the bound volume of the Laws of Nigeria are not within the easy reach of the average Nigerian, but they are supposed to know the law because ignorance of the law is no excuse.

I would also appeal to the hon. Attorney-General to see that the Laws of Nigeria are made as cheap as possible. If the price covers the cost of producing then, that is enough. There is no need to make one hundred per cent profit on the cost of producing a text book.

With these points made, Sir, I support the Head.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, There is very little that one would like to say under this Head but in view of the stage which we have reached in our political evolution in this country, I do not think it would be too much to stress the point that I am going to make, and that is going

to be the theme of my speech, the role of the hon. Attorney-General in the Federation.

It is true that the Attorney-General is a political appointee, but by virtue of his office he has a special responsibility to all the people of this country. As I said, it may be true that he is an N.C.N.C. Minister but unlike many of his colleagues his responsibility transcends politics, and that is why I said, Sir, that it cannot be too much to stress the dual personality that the Attorney-General should possess. In his advice to this House, in his advice outside this House, it must be too clear to the people of this country that there is no tinge of politics in it at all.

I am not saying, Sir, that the Attorney-General is guilty of that, but as I said, we need to be reassured that the Attorney-General, living up to his reputation and his ability, would be able to know where politics end and where true law begins. I do not intend to dwell much on this point because I have no doubt that the Attorney-General himself understands what I am saying and perhaps equally knowledgeable Members of this House follow what I am saying.

Now, I turn to the provisions of the Estimates. The Estimates give the Attorney-General a full complement. He has now a large array of Crown Counsel, Senior Crown Counsel, Principal Crown Counsel, Parliamentary Crown Counsel, and all the rest of them, some of them earning salaries even as near as that of the High Court Judges. As my hon. friend opposite has said, this is as it should be. But the plea I am entering is that at this stage and with this full complement, he should leave no room at all for people to complain of the output of his Department.

Time was in this country when legal practitioners found it not very easy to enter into an encounter with somebody from the Attorney-General's office. They had library facilities, some of them had considerable legal experience, but I do not think the present-day experience can be compared with what used to obtain some ten or twenty years ago. It is not easy for ordinary legal practitioners to fight it out successfully with a junior Crown Counsel let alone a senior Crown Counsel.

I am therefore asking the present personnel of the Attorney-General's Office not only to maintain that high record of those old days

but also to see whether they can improve on it. As I said, the Attorney-General has a very full complement and that must have been due to the foresight of the present Minister of Justice in order to ensure that his work progresses successfully.

The last point I wish to make, Sir, is this. Perhaps you noticed in yesterday's reply of the Minister of Justice to one of the questions asked by my hon. Friend, Mr Mbah (I do not know how far that suggestion has gained ground), the suggestion that the office of Permanent Secretary should be separated from that of the Solicitor-General. Well, the answer of the Attorney-General was that that was a matter for the Government to decide. If I may be allowed to say so, I am asking the Government not to give a moment's thought to that consideration. It is not only unjustifiable extravagance to separate the office of Solicitor-General from that of the Permanent Secretary, but there is also provision in the Estimates for a Deputy Solicitor-General. So, even if it is suggested that the work is too much for one man, I think the Solicitor-General's part of the work has been lightened by the provision of the Deputy Solicitor-General.

As I said, the theme of the Minister of Finance has been that there should be less expenditure on provisions of staff and the rest of it. In this case particularly, the office of Solicitor-General and that of Permanent Secretary can conveniently be handled together.

That is all I want to say, Sir.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to pay tribute to our Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. I think this country is very lucky to have a person of the standing of Dr Elias here as Attorney-General. Not only is he a first-class academician, he is also a lawyer of international reputation.

After reading the Speech from the Throne, I could not but conclude that the Attorney-General is very progressive. He is bringing reforms in so many respects into our laws. Particularly the Legal Aid Bill which, I understand, will come before this House soon. The liberality of any government is assessed by its

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attitude towards the poorer sections of the community and I hope that the Attorney-General will go ahead with more and more of these reforms.

I would now like to talk on the question of Law Reports. The Law Report in this country had not been a very happy one, particularly in respect of some of the regions. The Western Region and the Northern Region are doing very well in matters of law reporting but it is a matter of regret that the Eastern Region is not doing as much as is expected. So, we who are legal practitioners are very happy to hear that we are going to have all the Nigerian Law Reports. These will make for easy reference.

Sir, I want to alert the mind of the Attorney-General to an Order passed in 1960, that is, the Adaptation of Laws (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order, 1960. The Federal Supreme Court, I think early this year or late last year held that this Order forbids appeals in interlocutory matters from the High Courts of the Regions to the High Court. The position now is intolerable. If a lawyer takes a case to the High Court and the High Court Judge makes an interlocutory order with which he agrees, under this particular Order it is held that he has no right to appeal to the Federal Supreme Court. I think the Attorney-General himself is aware of this particular ruling of the Federal Supreme Court and will do something to rectify the situation.

The next point is in respect of the Federal Supreme Court. There is no doubt that the Federal Supreme Court is doing very well but as I said during the last Session, I think we deserve more than one session of the Federal Supreme Court. Justice must not only be done but it must be done quickly. As Shakespeare said, "Delay is the greatest enemy of justice". We should have at least two divisions, if not three divisions of the Federal Supreme Court.

The Federal Supreme Court has to handle appeals from the Northern Region, from the Western Region, from the Eastern Region and from the Federal territory of Lagos. Not only that. Under the present constitution, certain matters have to be initiated in the Federal Supreme Court as a court of first instance. Why then should we have only one Federal Supreme Court sitting at a time and

faced with so much work? The result is that we have a lot of adjournment, over adjournment which, I think, with all due respect, is not the fault of the presiding Judges but is due to the fact that we have not got the number of divisions which we should have.

Mr Dosunmu touched the question of the post of Permanent Secretary and Solicitor-General. I should say that I agree with him and at the same time I should say that I disagree with him. My stand is this that the Government has got to make up its mind. Is the office of the Solicitor-General going to be a civil service appointment or a political appointment? That is the first issue. If we are following Commonwealth examples, then it will be a political appointment. If this is so, then the office of the Permanent Secretary should be separated from that of the Solicitor-General. But if the Government decides that this office is going to be a civil service appointment, then there might be some force in the argument of my learned Friend, Mr Dosunmu, that one person should hold the two posts. Unless that point is resolved, I think the question is still open to debate.

My next point is on Federal election petitions. As I suggested last time, and I think this cannot be repeated too often, the Federal Government should establish Election Petition Courts in matters of Federal elections. Under the present Constitution the Chief Justices of the Regions are appointed on the advice of the Premier of each Region. Not only that. In the Western Region, the precedence and seniority of High Court Judges are decided on the advice of the Premier, who is a politician. And we all know what human nature is! It is only fair that justice must not only be done but it must appear to be done.

A federal election should have a Federal outlook in all respects. If there is a Federal election it will not cost much for the Federal Government to make arrangements in the Northern Region, in the Western Region, in the Eastern Region and in Lagos for cases to be decided by special Federal Election Courts.

I now talk on the salaries of magistrates and their conditions of service. I think our magistrates are doing excellent work and they deserve more pay. We can compare their salaries with those of people in the corporations.

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[MR AKINJIDE]

Take for instance, the Secretary of the E.C.N. is earning over a thousand pounds. A barrister of four or five years service who has just returned from overseas is lucky to be employed as a Secretary of the Railway Corporation or the Coal Corporation or the E.C.N. and is earning over three thousand pounds whereas a barrister of seven or even ten years standing who is a magistrate continues to earn £1,600 or £1,800. I think this is ridiculous. It is unrealistic. After all, we all buy in the same market, sell in the same market and send our children to the same school. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I also note in the Estimates under the D.P.P. Section that there is only one provision for a Senior Crown Counsel. I submit that this is not enough. It is true that we have the D.P.P. and we have the Deputy D.P.P., but these two Officials will be concerned with matters of high policy, particularly with very important cases. Therefore, it is the Senior Crown Counsel who will be concerned with the framing of charges and minor cases in court. It is true that there are provisions for six Crown Counsel but these might be inexperienced crown counsel—I say with due respect to them—who might not be able to handle intricate and complicated cases and who might even lose a case which the Crown should not lose. So, I suggest that the Attorney-General should endeavour to increase the number of Senior Crown Counsel in that Ministry.

Sir, let me refer to the price of our Laws before I sit down. I think the price of 25 guineas for the Laws is too much and it is unrealistic. These laws are not only meant for lawyers who are rich and who can afford to buy them; they are also meant for the common man, the farmer, the shopkeeper who can read to be able to buy the Laws of the Land, keep them in the shop and read them at intervals. Not only that, Sir, I think the Members of this House should be given free copies of these Laws. (*Applause*) I am not comparing the Regions but in the Regions these laws are given to Members free.

I have heard some argument that in England the Hanbury Laws of England are not given to M.P.s free. That is true. But this is not England. You cannot compare Nigeria with England. After all there are so many things we do in this country that are not done in England. Take the question of appointment

of Q.Cs. for example. Solicitors are not made Q.Cs. in England but they are made here. It is only Advocates who are made Q.C.s in England. The fact that something is not done in England is no reason why it should not be done in this country.

So, Mr Attorney-General, the Legal Practitioners Bill which is being considered by lawyers of this country will soon come to the Minister of Justice for consideration, and I hope he will give it all due consideration and accept our suggestions. It is going to be the Lawyers' Bible and it is a matter which many of us feel very strong about.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr P. O. Eleke (Okigwi South-East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I feel very happy to bring to the notice of the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of the Federation of Nigeria the point that crown witnesses in the rural areas are denied of their transport and attendance allowances. This is more so in the Eastern Region particularly at Umuahia and Okigwe areas.

Crown witnesses waste their time and money in going to court to give evidence on behalf of the Crown. Some of these cases may hang on for a year or more; sometimes the cases are adjourned from time to time, and sometimes cases may go on appeal from Magistrate Court to the High Court, or from the High Court up to the Federal Supreme Court. After all this, Mr Chairman, the crown witnesses are denied of their allowances. I appeal to the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of the Federation to help these poor witnesses to get their allowances properly and correctly.

Mr P. U. Umoh (Abak South-East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very happy to find that the Federation has succeeded in having an Attorney-General with very high academic attainment. I hope he will bring his mature experience gained in Oxford to the aid and betterment of our lot.

I would like to call the attention of the hon. the Attorney-General to the promiscuous state of our legal publications in Nigeria. An hon. Friend of mine has already pointed out what is happening in the Eastern Region. What happens there is this. The Regional Assembly will pass laws and for urgent purposes sufficient copies might be printed. But as soon

[MR UMOH]
as these first copies are exhausted there are no more to be found. When you write to the Government Printer, the reply is—it is out of print. Imagine that. And the law was passed just a month ago. The position is very embarrassing.

The same thing happens with respect to cases standing in the court. We do not have enough of these law reports available in the East. I have been getting some from the Western Region and from the Northern Region regularly and I think the position in those Regions is better.

Sir, it is then the duty of the Attorney-General to do his best to see that in such publicity he leads the Regions of the Federation. This is the highest Legislature in the land and that is why it is incumbent upon the Attorney-General to give a lead and let others follow.

I would suggest that to do this, Sir, there should be a federal system of law reporting and this federal system of law reporting must take account of all the laws in the Regions. The Attorney-General has got to do this in consultation with the Regional Attorney-Generals. I would advocate a system whereby we have the Regional and Federal legislations in one annual volume.

The Chairman : Order, I have received a message from Official Reporters that the hon. Member is not properly heard. It will, therefore, be helpful if he can only raise his voice as loud as he can.

Mr Umoh : I am saying, Mr Chairman, that it is the duty of the Federal Attorney-General to take the lead so that the Regions will follow. I am now suggesting that he should hold consultations right from now with the Regional Attorney-Generals with a view to improving our system of law reporting which is to-day not very satisfactory.

The Attorney-General has got to consider establishing a Federal machinery for this law reporting. The system to be adopted should be roughly as follows. All Federal and Regional legislations should come under the same annual covers. That will make easy reference possible. Now, all cases decided in the Regional courts and the Federal courts should come under the same annual covers. Of course, the printers should know the best way

of arranging them so that it is possible to differentiate between a Regional case law and a Federal case law.

Sir, some time ago a group of enterprising Nigerian lawyers started a sort of law journal for Nigeria. That law journal, in my estimation, did not have enough of official patronage. I feel, Sir, that it is high time the Attorney-General gave serious consideration to this matter. That will make it possible for us to have a reliable forum where legal opinions all over Nigeria can be expressed. Otherwise, we are not availing ourselves of the excellent opportunities afforded to us by our independent status. In England we have so many of them. You have the Modern Law Review, the Public Law Review, Public Law, and so on and so forth. There are very many of them. Why not also in Nigeria?

Finally, Sir, the most important thing, the most important duty that devolves upon the shoulders of the Attorney-General is a system—what I would call a Nigerian Institute, a scheme for establishing a Nigerian Institute for Restatement. The Attorney-General knows very well what that means. Our Regions and the Federal Government have different legal systems, and the contexts and the approaches to the laws operating in the Regions as well as in the Federal Capital are somehow antagonistic to one another. For that reason, Sir, there should be a machinery for reconciling the differences as far as we can.

Such an institute exists in America. We have an American Institute for Restatement of Torts, American Institute for Restatement of Company Laws, American Institute for Restatement of Law of Contract, Criminal Laws, and so on. All are provided for. So, Sir, since our legal systems are somehow antagonistic there should be a levelling influence provided at the federal level. This task can better be undertaken by no other person than the Federal Attorney-General.

Each of the Regions, Sir, has power to pass any law and to decide the contexts of this law within its own constitutional and legal limits. So there is no obligation upon a Region to model its laws. As long as this freedom of the Regions is in existence this conflict will continue. The resolution of this country can only be undertaken at the federal level by the institution of this Nigerian Institute for Restatement. Therefore, Mr Chairman, I feel that the Attorney-General should take all these into consideration.

Federal Parliament Debates

1969 [Appropriation (1961-62) Bill] 19 APRIL 1961 [Appropriation (1961-62) Bill] 1970

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Head and sub-heads of this Ministry. As I have always said, it is easy to criticise, but everyone knows that Estimates are never made at random.

I was talking to a friend recently, a man who stayed for a long time in England, and he told me that one of the wisest things that this Government has done is the bringing back of Dr Elias to Nigeria. (*Applause*).

I wish the Attorney-General would do all he can to make all High Court Judges and Magistrates to be under the Federal Government and leave the Regions to take care of the Provincial and Customary Courts only.

Another point that I want to make, and which I want the Attorney-General to take note of, is that he should see to it that all Members of this House get, free of charge, a set of these new laws. I made this same appeal last year in this House and at that time I said I was not in agreement with lawyers who stated that 25 guineas is too costly. It is their tool. Artizans pay for their tools themselves, and one practice alone is capable of fetching any lawyer—

An hon. Member: Point of order, Sir.

Mr Babatunde: I refuse to yield, Mr Chairman, we know he is not raising a point of order.

Several hon. Members: Go on.

Mr Babatunde: 25 guineas is not too much for a lawyer to get out of one single case. It may be a lawyer like Mr Briggs whose one word of advice is capable of fetching him 25 guineas. Therefore, my humble appeal is that the Attorney-General should— (*Interruption.*)

An hon. member: One hon. Member is reading newspapers.

The Chairman: I think, if the hon. Member is reading newspapers, he must put them away.

Chief Anthony Enahoro (Ishan East): Mr Chairman Sir, I propose to make a speech later and I am trying to assemble my facts from it.

The Chairman: Order, order. It is a pity that the Standing Orders do not allow the reading of newspapers, though you might be collecting some facts from them. This you might have done before you came into the House (*Applause*) or else have 5 minutes rest with the newspaper, collect your facts and then come in.

Mr Babatunde: Mr Chairman, as you know that I am not used to long speeches, I want to emphasise to the Attorney-General that he should make available, free of charge to every Member, as soon as possible this set of volumes of the law.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr V. E. Eze (Orlu North East): Mr Chairman, I have to start by associating myself with the several other hon. Members in the deserved tributes which they paid to our Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Dr Elias. Some hon. Members do not appreciate why it is necessary to give commendation to our Ministers when they deserve it. As the watch dogs of the people, we are in duty bound to criticise as well as to commend, and when it is time to commend we should not do so grudgingly.

Sir, within the short time that the Ministry of Justice has been in existence, it has done very commendable work indeed. (*Hear, hear*). The climate of any country determines the health of the people there. When we refer to climate, we do not necessarily mean physical climate, but we also refer to legal or social climate. Dr Elias is from a tropical country, but he is by constitution very temperate, not only learned but very temperate, and it is a blessing to have such a man in the position that he is now occupying.

If you ask Britain, for instance, what is her greatest contribution to human progress, I have no doubt she will reply that the rule of law is her greatest contribution. (*Hear, hear*). We in this country too must lay very solid foundations for the rule of law, and in order to make that possible it is good to recruit those who are not only learned in the law, but are also personally well disposed to dispense justice, and in this connection, we have the good fortune of having men like Sir Adetokunbo Ademola as the Federal Chief Justice, people like Sir Louis Mbanefo, people like Quashi-

[Mr V. E. EZE]

Idun and others. Unfortunately the climate in the Western Region, I mean legal climate, is not as favourable as it ought to be because of the kind of politics that is obtaining over there.

Sir, in order to enable these distinguished sons of Nigeria to make our country as great as Great Britain, America and other places where the rule of law is well established, we must pay them salaries commensurate with their responsibility and their qualifications. (*Hear, hear*). Some hon. Members are saying they are well paid. Take, for instance, a Permanent Secretary in any Ministry—he is receiving more salary than the Chief Justice of the Federation.

Some hon. Members : No, no, that is not correct. You must check your facts.

Mr Eze : Mr Chairman, Sir, I have seen from the Budget Estimates that some of the special Advisers in the Federal Public Service receive more salary, I say with emphasis, more salary than the Minister of Justice or the Chief Justice of the Federation. (*Several hon. Members : That is not so*). This is not as it should be. And this is not as it should be.

You may compare with Britain. For instance, in Britain Law is a luxury, not in the sense people may understand it. When you go to Britain, for instance, you see some lawyers who do not even go to court to plead for anybody but they must maintain the dignity and decency of the Bar. Here in Nigeria, once you dress up as a lawyer it is evidence of opulence, whereas it is not. So, by that I mean that Law in itself is the only profession which goes by the special distinction "learned". You do not address any other profession as *learned* but in law and those who are learned in law should be given the respect and honour they deserve, otherwise corruption and bribery will rear their ugly heads one way or the other.

So, Mr Chairman, let us be realistic, let us give our dispensers of justice a scale of salary they richly deserve.

Another point is the question of intergrating our Law. We have a Federal system of Government—we are happy that we have got what we asked for. But we have the

Federal Legal System and the Regional Legal System, and these legal systems may have conflicting elements necessarily, and it would be a nice thing if the Federal Attorney-General and his counterparts in the Regions would have regular conferences from time to time with a view to integrating our Laws and systematizing them to reflect, not a split personality, but a united one.

In conclusion, I would very strongly appeal to our Federal and Regional Governments to increase the number of our Judges and Magistrates. Hon. Members will agree with me that, considering the amount of legal business in the courts, the present number of Judges and Magistrates is definitely inadequate. My learned Friend, Mr Akinjide, has stressed the importance of having several sessions of the Federal Supreme Court sitting at the same time so as to take care of the volume of business which we have in that court. This is true of other courts, whether the High Courts or the Magistrates' Courts. The number of people on the Bench is very, very inadequate to cope with the volume of business, and, in conclusion I very strongly appeal to the Government to do something about this.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : Mr Chairman, Sir, my contribution will be short, and I am going to comment firstly on prosecutions in the courts.

The usual thing is to give very important cases of prosecution to junior Police Officers in the courts. Sometimes you see a third class police officer, or even a Recruit, prosecuting a very important case of burglary. Well, I think that is not good enough. As counsel in court, if you are not interested in the case, you will observe the number of tricks by the defence counsel on these inexperienced police officers. I think for justice to be effective it must be real. If the Legal Department cannot afford to send out their Crown Counsel—if there are not enough Crown Counsel—I think they should employ more.

I see there is provision for seventeen Crown Counsel. If that is not enough, I suggest that they should re-inforce their ranks and employ more Crown Counsel in order that justice will be properly administered in our courts.

Federal Parliament Debates

1973

[Appropriation (1961-62) Bill]

19 APRIL 1961

[Appropriation (1961-62) Bill]

1974

2 The second thing is the present building of the Federal Supreme Court. I feel that the building, considering all other buildings that have adorned this great country in this post-independence period, the Federal Supreme Court, I think, does not measure up to its importance and status. So, I would suggest the building of either another Federal Supreme Court which will be more imposing than the present one, or the making of some other provision for the housing of the High Court building. I understand that there is a plan afoot for the building of a better Federal Supreme Court. I think that the sooner that is put into operation the better.

And the next thing, Mr Chairman, is the Law Journals in this country. A speaker on this side of the House has mentioned something about it. The Bar Association is trying its very best. It used to have a Nigerian Law Journal, but, for some time, it has not been published. I understand it is due to finance. I hope that the Government will start plans whereby they will subsidize our Law Journal, as distinct from the Law Report. The Law Journal should not be left exclusively to the Bar Association, and that voluntary organisation to have a Law Journal which will benefit this country.

I must always say that whatever we do in post-independence Nigeria, we must remember that we are no longer dealing with Nigeria of, say, two, three, four, five, or even ten years ago, but with Nigeria of 1961 which is independent and which must compete in all respects with other countries in the world.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I see in the Estimates a provision for First Parliamentary Counsel. I really do not quite get the person who put up this estimate. What is a First Parliamentary Counsel? A First Parliamentary Counsel may be, I think, as its name implies, a member of this Parliament. If he is not a member of this Parliament, what is his actual designation. If it is a Parliamentary Draftsman, it should be so designated clearly in the Estimates.

I now come to an argument which has been floating around in this town for some time and which has been brought up by my hon.

Friend, Mr ~~Dosunmu~~ and also touched upon by my hon. Friend, Mr Akinjide. And that is the question of the Office of the Solicitor-General and the Permanent Secretary. Well, it is not, as Mr Akinjide is saying, a question as to whether the Solicitor-General should be a political appointment or not, but it is a question of functions. Now, the Office of Solicitor-General is that of a Lawyer and it is the Legal Department, and, therefore, I do not see why, as Mr Akinjide and many others seem to suggest, a lay-man should be made to be Permanent Secretary of the Legal Department. I would agree with Mr L. J. Dosunmu that the Office of the Solicitor-General and that of the Permanent Secretary need to be in the hands of one man and that man should be at the head of the Department.) 180

5 I come to the salary of Magistrates. This is a very sore point. I have mentioned it last year and I am glad to know that many other speakers have mentioned it. At present, I think it is too small and it is not enough to attract members of the Legal Profession who, probably, would have adorned the Bench. If you put in very junior practitioners, simply because they have served for three years, possibly people who have not had the opportunity to be experienced in many aspects of the Law, I think it will be very unfortunate. Any legal practitioner of some kind of experience will bear me out in this, that if you go to Court for a particular matter, you will find out that your submission is over-ruled by a man—a junior man who, for the time being, is on the Bench, for no other reason, than that a better man is not forthcoming.

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There is no other reason, not because of any deep research, not because of any other experience, but because of one thing or the other. In this respect, I must say, I think, with due caution also, that there are quite a lot of things that can influence a magistrate's mind—

An hon. Member : Say what. Bribery?

Mr Briggs : It is not bribery at all. I really have to say here that I should not be misunderstood. Our magistrates are above board, and they are trying to live above board

[MR BRIGGS] (Interruption) And all that we are asking is adequate payment so that like Ceaser's wife they should be above suspicion. It is because of the little pay combined with the general trend of things and how things happen in our country that these rumours are being taken as serious.

If they were well paid, whatever rumours that would be abroad would not be believed by the ordinary people. But when such rumours get to one's ears, and you remember that possibly if that man had been practising he would be earning much more, perhaps double or thrice of what he earns, and considering his responsibility, you have the tendency of believing whether it is true or not. I would say definitely that as a practitioner I have not found one magistrate who is corrupt. (Interruptions).

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias): Mr Chairman. Sir, I propose to deal with only a few of the 28 different points I have jotted down here. Those points with which I will not deal will be taken into consideration.

The first speaker is Mr Muojeke. The first point he made was in relation to the office of the D.P.P. I do not think I need say more on this occasion than that I agree with him for the reasons he gave and for a number of other reasons, which I do not think I should advance at this stage. As he well knows a Bill has already been published in the *Gazette* on this subject, and I do not want to anticipate the debate.

He has suggested the regionalisation of the Judiciary as a cause of some kind of injustice. I think this is all a political issue, and I do not suppose that I can supply the remedy here. The remedy, I think, is in the hands of all the political parties in the country.

An hon. Member: He has asked you to amend the Constitution.

The Attorney-General: He has asked me to amend the Constitution, but, as you know, I cannot amend the Constitution unless the majority wish the Constitution to be amended. There are certain procedures laid down in the Constitution of Nigeria for this purpose.

Now, he also wants me to have powers in the Regions so as to control some of the things that go on in the administration of justice there. Again, the Constitution clearly defines the respective spheres of the jurisdiction of the Attorneys-General, and these must be complied with.

Thirdly, he raised the point about the cost of publications; he complained that whereas in the past the copies of the *Criminal Code* and *Criminal Procedure Ordinance* used to be sold at about 5s, they are now sold for something like 15s, and would want the Government to see what it could do to reduce the cost. I think this is a point well taken, and the Government will give some further consideration to it.

I now come to the three points made by Mr Dosunmu, about the role of the Attorney-General of the Federation. I must confess that I was very surprised to hear him give me the lecture on separating law from politics in the advice I give in this House or outside. I want to make it quite clear that when I was appointed I took an oath, and I am determined to be loyal to that oath. (*Hear, hear*).

When I rise here to give an opinion, or give an opinion to the Government outside this House, I always do it with a proper sense of responsibility and in full remembrance of that oath. I would like to say to the House that of the five or six major opinions which I have advanced, either in this House or outside, I am happy to say that those that have been tested in the courts have also been upheld. (*Hear, hear*).

I know that occasionally the opinion I give may not be palatable to certain people purely on political grounds, but I always say: "The courts are open, and there are proconsuls". The best is to refer it to the courts if the opinion I offer is wrong. If my opinion is wrong it is for the court to decide. If the hon. Members would cite specific instances where in their opinion, I had deliberately mixed up law with politics I should be willing to deal with them on the floor of this House or outside.

An hon. Member: What about Chike Obi?

Another hon. Member: Chike Obi threw himself out of this House.

The Attorney-General : The case referred to in this interjection happens to be a happy instance of the way in which the advice I gave was upheld by the Federal Supreme Court. (*Hear, hear*). Another case is now before the Court, and I am sure the interjector will follow the course of the case.

On the maintenance of standards, I think, we would take this into consideration, because although there have been some complaints about the performances of the law officers in one or two cases, I am going to say quite categorically that my Ministry sets a very high store on the maintenance of a high standard for the law officers of the Crown, and, I think, from the statistics given in the previous answers to questions, it should be obvious to Mr Dosunmu that these officers have always performed their functions very creditably in the cases they have handled.

Now, the third point, the argument about whether the office of the Solicitor-General should be separated from that of the Permanent Secretary of my Ministry. I do not think that I want to say more than the written answer I gave to that question from Mr Mba and the text is available in the report of the proceedings of this House.

Mr Akinjide raised the point about the adaptation of the laws and, I think, that is a very important point which has been receiving my attention in the last month or so. I believe due consideration will be given to the provision for appeal in interlocutory matters.

Then the second point he raised is about the Federal Supreme Court which he would like to sit in two or more sessions or two or more divisions. I will assure him that the Federal Chief Justice has this point very much in mind and has told me that as soon as he has the full complement of his Federal Justices, he will put this into operation.

Now, the establishment of Federal Electoral Courts in the Regions is again a matter of very serious import. I think it is to be linked with what I mentioned in the course of my speech the other day about the establishment of Courts, Federal Courts in the Regions to tackle revenue cases. What we have decided to do for the time being is to appoint a number of Senior Crown Counsel to see about those cases.

As I mentioned in my speech, the Federal Chief Justice is in touch with his colleagues in the Regions to make sure that when these Federal cases come before them, they will be given priority when Federal Crown Counsel appear in those courts. But the question of establishing Regional Courts for Federal elections would have to be separately dealt with. It is not entirely in the same category as Federal Courts established in the Regions for fraud and smuggling cases.

Now, the next point made was about the staff of the D.P.P. I think that was also raised by a number of later speakers. I would like to explain at this stage that we have given some thought to this and what you find in the Estimates at the moment is not final because, when the Estimates were prepared, the substantive holder of this office had not yet been appointed. We are going to see to it that he is adequately staffed.

But in this respect, I would like to mention also the point raised by another speaker, subsequently to Mr Akinjide, in regard to the question of Police prosecutions. I think Mr Briggs also raised that as one of his first points. I would like to let both hon. Members know that I made it one of the cardinal principles in the Ministry that all the more important cases should from now on be handled as far as possible by Law Officers of the Crown rather than by police officers. Members must have observed that when I introduced the Bill on the Sheriffs and Baliffs, I pointed out that one of the major reforms we were trying to introduce was to take most of the cases that used to be handled by Deputy Sheriffs, who were Police Officers under the Inspector-General, over by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Now, the cost of the Laws of Nigeria again is a recurrent topic and I have already dealt with that.

The last point made by Mr Akinjide was in respect of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance. As he well knows, I have been working in close collaboration with the Bar Association and the Bar Council on this subject, and indeed, apart from studying the suggestions they made,

[ATTORNEY-GENERAL]

I had attended at least two official meetings of that Association and I think that the Legal Practitioners Bill is now nearing completion.

Mr Eleke, talked about Crown witnesses being denied their travelling allowances in the Regions. Much, as I sympathize with him for raising this point, I think that the Regional Attorneys-General will be the proper person to whom to refer this matter. Although at this stage, anticipating another point raised by Mr Eze about holding of Conferences of Attorney-General, might I take this opportunity, Mr Speaker, Sir, to point out that in conformity with some of the ideas I put forward in one of my Luggard Lectures in 1958, I had held not less than three official meetings with the Attorneys-General of the Federation and we are in constant touch with one another and are always comparing notes with a view to making sure that, as far as possible, we have a uniformity both in our legislation as well as in our law reports.

The member who raised the question of the Federal Law Reports, Mr Umoh, will remember that when I gave my main speech a few days ago, I told the House that, already, a Federal machinery has been established for the publication of a new series of Law Reports to be entitled *All Nigerian Law Reports*. This machinery consists of all the Attorneys-General of the Federation and of the Chief Registrars of all the Courts in the Federation and the aim is to try and publish a quarterly volume containing all the more important decisions of all the High Courts of the Federation.

As for Federal and Regional legislation being published in one annual volume, that would be a matter that would require close attention because if the questioner, Mr Umoh, knew the volume of the Legislative publications of a particular Region, I am sure he would not like to handle a volume that would go into nearly two thousand or three thousand pages which would be the result of adopting his suggestion. At the moment, the individual volumes sometimes run to something like over a thousand, and it would not be possible to publish the whole of the Regional books on legislation along with the Federal one in one annual volume.

Now, the hon. Member also mentioned Law Journals, a point which Mr Briggs also took up. As you know, in Britain and elsewhere Law Journals are not usually published by the Government of the country. This is a matter for the Bar Association or the Bar Council or even for private efforts. I know that Mr Ekineh has been publishing some kind of Law Reports or Law Journal as a private enterprise; that shows the kind of thing that can well be done. However, as I told the Bar Association at a recent conference of theirs in Saint George's Hall, if the Bar Association would organise itself properly and set up machinery for effective handling of matters of this kind, I would be willing to approach the Federal Government with recommendations for assistance.

Now, I come to the publishing of the Nigerian Restatements of the Law of Torts, Contract, and so on, on the American pattern. I must say that our laws have not really reached the stage in which it would be necessary for us to publish volumes of Restatement of Law. Our establishment of a Federal Uniform Law Committee, and the frequent consultations between all the Attorneys-General of the Federation should ensure that this divergence does not go beyond bounds.

Mr Babatunde would want us to put all High Courts under Federal control. Well, I do not know whether this would not amount to making the Judiciary unitary again as opposed to the Federal structure which we have at the moment; it would involve a good deal of consultations and a large measure of agreement among all the political parties in the country before that kind of thing could be undertaken.

Now he also wanted us to distribute, free, copies of the Laws of Nigeria to all the Members. I remember three lawyers, eminent lawyers, two from the Opposition side and one from the Government side, approached me a few days ago to bring about means of handing over all the twelve volumes of the Laws of Nigeria to every Member of this House. Well I do not know really whether the question I put to them, and which I would like to repeat here to-day, can be answered. Of what use, I asked, would these volumes, containing rather complicated provisions, be to a Member who is not a lawyer and who may not really be interested in these matters. (*Interruptions*).

Federal Parliament Debates

1981 [Appropriation (1961-62) Bill] 19 APRIL 1961 [Appropriation (1961-62) Bill] 1982

The Chairman : Order, order. I called the Minister of Justice.

The Minister of Justice : I was told that those Members who are not lawyers might want these volumes as works of reference so that, when their constituents come to them in times of difficulty, they can always refer to them. I think I shall mention this matter to the Government for their consideration.

With regard to the salaries of Judges, Magistrates and so on—I am referring to the point raised by Mr Eze.—the hon. Member wants the salaries of Judges and Magistrates to be raised. I might say that, only a few months ago, the Government approved certain new scales we put up for Chief Magistrates and Magistrates, and I am sure that when these come into operation they will meet the points mentioned by most of the Members. As for the Judges, as all Members know, all High Court Judges earn a salary of £3,300—that is including the Mbanefo Award. I must sympathise, as a lawyer myself, with any suggestions for raising the salary of Judges. But I am assured by my colleague in the Cabinet, the Minister of Establishments, that any attempt to raise these salaries in the case of Judges and Law Officers and so on would have the unfortunate result of causing a good deal of agitation in the other branches of the Civil Service. Most of these salaries have been standardized and so any attempt to increase them would enable other people in the Service to make similar claims on the Government.

Now, on the issue of increase in the number of Magistrates and Judges, I think I made it clear in my main speech that, after representations made to my Ministry by the Chief Justice of the Lagos High Court, we have now increased the number of Judges from six to eight and the number of Magistrates has also been increased by the addition of two more posts of Chief Magistrates. As I said in one of the answers given yesterday, we have no requests at all from any of the Courts for any increase in the present establishment. I think I have dealt fully with that point.

I will now mention one or two points raised by Mr Briggs. The first is about Parliamentary Counsel. He says he does not know

what these are and whether they will be members of this House. Well, this is a term commonly used in many Commonwealth countries, including Britain, for those Legal Draftsmen that formerly used to come to Parliament to help out on points of controversy or difficulty in relation to Bills. So that Parliamentary Counsel is usually understood in legal circles to mean—(Interruptions).

Now, I think these are the main points that have been made by all the Members, and I thank them very much for the various suggestions which they have made in relation to my Ministry.

Question put and agreed to.

£164,810 for Head 49—Ministry of Justice—agreed to.

HEAD 50—MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Question proposed, That £510,970 for Head 50—Ministry of Labour—stand part of the Schedule.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name that Sub-head 1 of this Head be reduced by £10. Mr Chairman, Sir, although the Minister has given me a little brief under the appointment of Nigerian representatives for the next session of the International Labour Organisation yet that does not convince me to refuse to move this Motion.

The Nigerian public has been too patient about the disunity which exists for a considerable time in the leadership of the Central Labour Organisation. We have been so patient that it has now come to an extent of becoming intolerable. Many attempts have been made by the Minister and his officials but all proved in vain. And very recently, Mr Chairman, an attempt has been made by one of the most distinguished personalities in the country, the Oba of Lagos, but all proved in vain. It is therefore an appropriate time, Sir, that Nigeria takes a new move in our central labour organisation.

In all our constitutional and political crises, it is quite obvious that our leaders on the whole have not failed Nigeria. In other fields and aspects, this cannot count to our failure. There is no reason, therefore, why leadership of the central labour organisation

[M. IBRAHIM GUSAU]

shall fail us or to make it more exact, shall fail our nation. Nigeria, for all its outstanding achievements and successes, has been wonderfully regarded as an exemplary nation. This credit is not one-sided because it is shared in our political, social, religious and many other aspirations.

There is no reason, Sir, why we should allow disunity in the central labour organisation of this country to become the loop-hole that leads to our failure. It is a serious matter which the leaders of both factions should reconsider and adjust themselves, and if they still fail to do this, we shall not be too selfish and too personal as the trends of events have proved them to be.

According to figures placed at our disposal yesterday by the hon. Minister of Labour, it shows that the two conflicting factions are not the only representatives in the labour force which should be regarded as part and parcel of the Central Labour Organisation, but the only point, Sir, is that, though the two factions have really contributed their part in the Labour Movement, the best they can do is to save their personal differences and form a stronger and a more powerful labour force in the interest of the Federation.

The main argument between the Trade Union Congress of Nigeria and the Nigerian Trade Union Congress is the question of alignment. I am not at all concerned with factional friendship, but I must make it quite clear, that Trade Union leaders will do great injustice to this country if they do not abide by the popular opinion of neutrality in the Nigerian trade unionism. Labour Movement is a force by itself which can project the country's personality and integrity, and I feel it is too dangerous if it practices ideas contrary to the popular opinion of the nation. It is of paramount importance that the Trade Union Movement should be on parallel lines with the popular opinion of the country. I, therefore, beg to move.

Dr K. Ezera (Bende East): Mr Chairman, Sir, though I would like to second this Motion, my own Motion is also on the Order Paper and I had wanted to speak generally. So, with your permission, Sir, while I would speak on this Motion, I would also like to touch generally on the other issue.

There is no doubt that the saddest commentary on the history of the Labour Movement in this country—

The Chairman: I would like to seize this opportunity to correct one irregular feature that has just reared up its head. Standing Order No. 21 provides that in Committee, a Motion of amendment does not require a seconder. So I am calling upon Dr Ezera to speak as a contributor to the debate, not as a seconder.

Dr Ezera: As I said earlier, Sir, the saddest commentary on the history of the Labour Movement in this country is the rift, the unfortunate rift, within the Nigerian Labour Movement. This rift has lasted for quite some time and the time has come, it seems to me, Sir, that the Government should step in courageously and boldly and take decisive action. In the past we had always been told that the Government on most other issues knew who was right. This time it is not enough to know who is right; the only way to test who is right is for the workers themselves to decide either by a poll or by some other means which of the factions they support.

Now, every year, the Minister of Labour will come here after efforts to reconcile the two factions (and I recognise his efforts), at last he will announce a delegate to go and represent Nigeria in Geneva. We cannot continue this way; it seems to me that this is a risky policy because it does not solve the situation. A courageous attempt must be made by Government to invade the Labour Movement in this country, bring them all together and let them vote and decide which of the factions they would subscribe to.

Furthermore, Sir, it seems to me that there is a very dangerous and hidden factor in this rift and this factor, or rather these factors, are the foreign influences: the bodies which go by the names of I.C.F.T.U. and W.F.T.U. The Government should abolish and expel these foreign influences in this country; they are all exerting influences in our labour Movements. My information is that these bodies feed our labour leaders with funds so that they live lavishly with the result that they surrender the interest of the workers and the interest of this country to these foreign influences.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): I think the hon. speaker is making a very unfortunate generalisation. I would like him to say some of the labour leaders, and not to generalise matters.

The Chairman: I believe hon. Mbah is referring to the hon. Member speaking and not to the Speaker as such! (*Laughter*).

Dr Ezera: Thank you, Sir, Well, if what I had been saying misleads my colleagues, I do not intend to smear all labour leaders; certainly there are many honest ones among them and I think my colleague here is one of them. (*Hear, hear*).

What I was saying is that most of our labour leaders in this country rely largely upon the funds from these foreign influences and if Government is satisfied that these are not healthy influences in this country, surely the only way open to Government is to expel these influences from this country and stop them from meddling in the internal affairs of this country.

Sir, the next point which I would like to touch upon is the question of a national minimum wage for workers. I have earlier mentioned this during the debate on the Speech from the Throne, but I think the Minister of Labour has not yet given some thought. Now, the issue of the national minimum wage for worker has been a burning one for some time in this House and Motions and Motions have been placed on the Order Paper, but they have never seen the light of day.

I call upon the Government to enter into a sort of consultation with the Regional Governments and after a comprehensive statistical survey, come out with a bold step, a bold decision, and implement something in the neighbourhood of £3—at least £3—per week for the workers all over the country and pay them weekly or bi-weekly and not on this monthly basis of whatever the salary may be. I think that £3 per week would be at least a minimum for the workers of this country. There is no need trying to say we all come here and, perhaps, draw £2,000 as our salaries and then the workers receive 2s-6d a day.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I was reminded, Sir, of the pay of the workers in the Jos Tin Mines; I am told that the workers in the Jos

Tin Mines receive a daily wage of 1s-6d a day, ranging from that to perhaps 3s-0d or 4s-0d, but even then it is still too small. This House was reminded about a week ago of what one might call a documentary evidence that the Jos Tin Mines companies make at least 99 per cent profits and this, of course, is still taxed overseas; but our labourers are receiving a paltry sum in terms of wages. Government should deal with this with very strong concern.

Sir, the other sore point which I think the Minister of Labour has tackled very well is the one about the labour in Fernando Po. The labour situation in Fernando Po with regard to the supply of Nigerian Labour there is one which should hurt the feelings of genuine nationalists in this country. It has also, I think, hurt the national pride and I think the integrity of independent Nigeria. There can be no doubt that the Minister is fully aware of the mounting ways of ill-treatment and inhuman dignity meted out to Nigeria labourers in Fernando Po.

The Minister will tell us he is going on tour and he will go on tour to Fernando Po but after the visit what happened? Nigerians who are there either as contract labourers or non-contract labourers or even as traders are suffering immense hardships at the hands of Spanish Authorities and I think that the time has come again for Government to take bold decisions either to stop the contract agreement which the Minister told us in this House is due for revision sometime next month; either stop it entirely or make it most favourable to us.

After all we supply the labour. The Spanish Island of Fernando Po, I am sure, cannot survive one day without the labour from Nigeria. Therefore we should be having an upper hand in negotiations and I think if negotiation fails, a way must be found to negotiate with the Spanish Authorities for taking over the Island to become part and parcel of Nigeria.

What I mean, Sir, is that in the interest of our own national territorial integrity and the interest of the natives and indigenous inhabitants of that place, Nigerians, I am told, form 60 per cent of the population of Fernando Po and if that figure is correct, there is

[DR EZERA]

no reason why the Nigerian Government should stand by and see the nationals of that Island and our own Nigerians to suffer humiliation.

The United States of America if I may remind my audience, Sir, on the question of labour, was able to negotiate and purchase what to-day is known as Louisiana and what to-day is known as Mexico. They are purchased from their original owners and there is no reason why the Nigerian Government cannot enter into an honourable negotiation to purchase the Island of Fernando Po.

Sir, the last point I would like to make, Mr Chairman, is with regard to athletics and football associations in Nigeria. I think this comes well under the Head of Labour. I think the Government have given a subvention to Nigeria Sports Association, a subvention of £2,200. I think, Sir, that more encouragement must be given to athletics—I notice that the hon. Leader of the Opposition is the President of the A.A.A. in this country and I think with a great person in this country heading it, that the morale of our boys will be very high, but it is not enough. Government should take a big interest and encourage these Sports Associations, particularly the Nigeria Football Association. I happen to be interested in football.

An hon. Member : Are you a footballer ?

Dr Ezera : Yes, I used to play when I was a schoolboy. I know, Sir, that watching the football game during the last match between Ghana and Nigeria, one could not but feel very happy that our boys have travelled a long way. We only drew that match out of hard luck and there is no doubt in my mind that the superior side was that of Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*). Yet we want the Government to encourage football so that they would not only put in more efforts and win the next football match between this country and Ghana but also to extend our activities in the field of sport.

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

Mr R. O. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to contribute to the question of the incessant labour problems in this country. I think the cause or the root of all this trouble is money and foreign interference.

Now, we have the I.C.F.T.U. backed by England and America willing to have some influence in Nigeria whether it is economic influence or that of trade unions. I also notice that the W.F.T.U. also is willing to have its own foothold in this country. I think that is where the question arises and I say, Mr Chairman, that the two factions of the trade unions of this country are to blame and it appears to me that the Minister of Labour is already taking sides; that is the most unfortunate part of it.

Neither of them is free from blame. One side is taking money from the Western Powers and the other side is taking money from the Eastern Powers. That is a naked truth and it is an open secret. Why should the Minister support either of the two factions; why should he support one against the other? I think what the Minister should do is to recognise the two factions.

Several hon. Members : Ah ! ah ! ah !

Mr Akinjide : Yes, that is what the Minister should do. You cannot say because in England, you have one trade union congress therefore in Nigeria you should have one. Recognise the two factions and—

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : Point of order. If the hon. Member is interested in the unity of the labour movement and in suggesting that the Minister should recognise the two factions, what will happen if we are to have three or four or more or ten in the Federation? Is it true that the Government should recognise all of them as well?

The Chairman : Order, order. The hon. Member is no doubt referring to the gentleman speaking and not to the Speaker and has somehow put in a quick point of debate. That is not a point of order.

Mr Akinjide : I think there is room for two trade union congresses in this country. After all, each side claims to seek the interest of the workers. Why not give them an opportunity. If the Minister makes up his mind, if he cannot recognise either of the two factions, well he should advise them to cut their root from these foreign interests either from

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the Western interest or from the Eastern interest. The truth is that the Western countries do not come to this country—

Alhaji Bello Farar Hula Bici (Bici East) : In view of the speaker's statement, Sir, and in view of the fact that Imoudu's faction of the labour movement is more or less suspected of communistic influence, the speaker could have suggested to the Government that the Imoudu's faction should be banned automatically. (*Laughter.*)

The Chairman : Order, order. I think again the hon. Member must have been referring to the gentleman speaking and not to the Speaker and secondly, he has more or less put in a quick point of debate, but I think if Members would exploit the Chairman's discretion in that manner, I think the Chairman might in his own discretion also demand the point of order to be raised before one is allowed to say anything.

Mr Akinjide : Mr Chairman, Sir, I must confess that I have no knowledge at all that either of the two factions is communistic. I have no knowledge at all and whatever the suggestion I made, is made with the utmost good faith.

I was saying that if the Minister finds it impossible to recognise either of the two factions or both factions, well he should advise them to kill the source of their trouble and that is the foreign interference from both East and West and let us form, as has been suggested in some quarters, an All African Trades Union Congress and not ally to either of the two factions. We should have our own trades union congress in this country and then contact other African states—Mali, Liberia, Ghana, Guinea, Niger Republic and so on and then form our own trades union congress.

As a matter of fact, I do not know when we will stop tying ourselves to the apron-strings of either the East or West in a matter of this nature. We can stand on our own legs and when it all comes to conferences, let them summon their own conference in the East, summon their own in the West and we summon our own and all of us stand on the same platform and exchange views.

After all, conditions in Russia are quite different from conditions in this country and conditions in America and England are quite

different from the conditions in Nigeria. So I think the panacea for all this trouble is for all factions to break their root from foreign sources and confine themselves first of all to the Nigerian workers movement and then to an All African Trades Union Congress.

Mr Chairman, one of the speakers talked on the question of minimum wages. Much as I have sympathy with this issue of minimum wages, there is a tendency for many of them to think that all people of this country are wage earners. That is untrue.

What of the thousands and millions of peasants who do not earn any wages and who have no minimum wage from any source and who buy and sell in the same markets? Whenever we talk of workers and workers and workers we should also remember carriers in the market and labourers who have neither any insurance nor any provident fund nor anything. It is not only workers who are entitled to minimum wages. There are also the peasants.

Then, there is the question of sports. I think we should start now preparing for the Olympic Games and start selecting those who are "probables" and let them make it a full-time job and pay them a full-time salary. That is what happens in America which is one of the most capitalistic countries in the world, although they say that sport is free, sport is this, sport is that. It is all nonsense. They attach them to departments or offices or companies who are ostensibly their Managers or Executives there. They never attend offices. They are always on the field or the tracks practising.

So why do we not select people now who are going to run 100 meters for us, people who are going to do the high jump, the long jump, throwing the discus *et cetera* and let them start to practise right from now and let the Government make provisions for their salaries, if only for the prestige and the name of this great country.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

The Minister of Labour : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am sorry to cut in so early but I think we have whipped that dead horse so hard in the past two days that Members will be spared the inconvenience of another lash being applied

[MINISTER OF LABOUR]

to this dead horse by me. I do not think I am prepared to add to all the information I have given you over this unfortunate split. I think the less said about it the better. It is my earnest hope that Members will co-operate with me in their individual capacities and speak to the leaders of these two warring Trade Unions to bring them together. That will be showing a more practical act than talking sweet advice to me here.

Now to the question of a national minimum wage. I have suggested to that respected and hon. Member, Dr Ezera, and I will pass the same advice to my colleague who is responsible for the shaping of wage structure in this Federation. That is a matter outside my own sphere.

I would only say that I agree with Members that this Government should do more in the future for the promotion of sports. We have done our best, so far, and you will find in one of the Sub-heads of the Estimates that we have even voted the sum of £80,000 to get the National Stadium into fine shape but I agree and I am very happy that Members are contributing so eloquently to what we have done and are expecting us to do more. I would add that not only am I craving for a moral backing in the matter of sport but also it is difficult if you expect me to agree that I shall put a premium on professionalism in sport in this country.

A Member suggested that amateurs should be paid salaries. I sincerely hope you know that means travelling from the realm of amateurism to the sphere of professionalism. That is precisely what Government is not interested in now. We shall do our best to encourage amateur sports in this country and though we know that there are some nations in the world who put a premium on professionalism and whose amateurish practice savours of professionalism, we are not prepared to borrow a leaf from them, but I can assure you that within the next two or three years Nigeria will be so wide awake in the realm of sport that there will be no complaint from this House at all.

The Regional Governments are co-operating very very much and already a meeting is scheduled with my opposite numbers from

the Regions and we will look into this burning question of sport and, you know, all that lies behind it is a question of finance.

Much as we would like to vote a very heavy sum of money to promote sports in Nigeria we will take into consideration, too, Members' requests for many other things like telecommunications, roads and medical facilities. We shall give sport the priority it deserves and I thank you very much for your healthy contribution in the matter of sport. Thank you.

Several hon. Members : What about Fernando Po ?

The Minister of Labour : Mr Chairman, I hope that Members will have been satisfied with the speech I made yesterday during the debate on the Motion on Fernando Po. I will only add this. I have already informed the House that it is my intention to visit the island of Fernando Po early next month in the company of two Members of this House from which the Opposition will supply one Member. I think if the Government had something dirty at the back of its mind it would not invite a Member of the Opposition and a Member of the Senate to go and see things for themselves. If even you do not trust your Minister. (*An hon. Member : We trust you*). At least you will trust your Parliament in Lagos.

I can inform you that when last I visited Fernando Po I went there in the company of the Chief Whip of the Opposition in the Eastern Region and we all made a joint report. Well, he saw things for himself and he agreed with our viewpoint.

I will warn further about one danger. We must not press too much by public opinion over this matter which I admit is most uninformed. I have been there myself. It is not as bad as people try to depict the lives of these poor labourers in Fernando Po and if we are not careful one of two things might happen. You might drive thousands of our countrymen to fall into the hands of recruiters of labour who would take them down in canoes and what happens when they get there? They will become Spanish subjects and then your Government will have no more opportunity of looking after their interests or protecting them.

Afterwards, it cannot stop anybody.

You see, the danger is this. I do not speak for the Spanish Government but I do not know if they will not feel happier if we withdraw from the place and then they sit down in their own country and there are thousands and thousands of people luring unfortunate young men and you will have to concentrate all your warships there to stop these trips to Fernando Po.

Give us a chance to see that we negotiate and we shall always negotiate with Nigeria's interests right at the back of our minds. Already, as a result of my last visit to Fernando Po we have increased our labour staff there. We have about four labour officers there. That means that the outlandish parts of the country that usually had not been receiving sufficient visits are now being regularly visited or patrolled, if I may use that word, and that has added very much.

Remember that the Spanish people pay these people about 230 pectas plus one pound every month. One pound sterling, which is deposited in their private accounts—Post Office Savings Account—and after the first two years they leave the territory with at least a savings of two years and it is for them to sign on for another year or, to refuse to sign another agreement. Certainly if they were dissatisfied they will not sign an agreement. After all, how many are there of us, past Ministers included, who can say that they can, at the end of two years, have blue ink in their paper with a savings of £24 and you must remember that thousands of people who leave the Eastern Region shores for Fernando Po are now immediately paying their taxes.

The Eastern Government do not find any difficulty in collecting taxes from all these people and it would cost more time, more money, and perhaps it would be impossible for these people to pay taxes if they were not recruited there.

We agree that we are helping the Spanish Government but do not let us be insincere enough not to feel that we are helping to solve, in a small way, the problem of unemployment.

I have mentioned on the Floor of this House that I have seen farms where labourers (twenty-four labourers on one farm) all own private wireless sets. They are given swimming pools; the Spanish Government look after their wives and their children are being

properly schooled; an English-speaking school that I think some of our Education Institutes can borrow a leaf from, is situated in the capital of this place.

I cannot agree that there is dissatisfaction all over there. And then you mentioned also that the plight of traders is not a happy one. My answer is this. These traders go there and if they are not well treated nobody stops them from returning but the biggest punishment you can give our labourers, or give our traders, is to warn them that you will send them back to Nigeria. That shows you things are not so bad as they may have been depicted in this House.

I want you to co-operate with us to do our best to make the lot of these young men, their wives and children much better in Fernando Po and any amount of uninformed criticism will not be helping good relations between ourselves and the Spanish Government.

At the moment I could say this on behalf of the Government, that this Government has no territorial ambition about annexing the island of Fernando Po.

Chief Enahoro (Ishan East): Sir, may I make one or two very brief points. The first is in regard to Fernando Po, and I want to say, Mr Chairman, something which may not be popular, and that is that we must guard against dangerous sentiments in this House. I refer in particular to the statement made by my hon. Friend, the Professor from Nsukka, (Dr Ezera), who said that we might take steps to acquire Fernando Po.

Sometime ago, Sir, Dr Foncha, who is as great a nationalist to his own people as some of us are to our own people here was heavily attacked in Nigeria because he sought independence for his own small territory. I think, Sir, that if we are going to parade such dangerous sentiments, other nations around us may be afraid of us and they will think that the people of this big country want to dominate the rest of Africa.

I will suggest very strongly, Mr Chairman, that this country must be well warned against developing very dangerous sentiments. It is from small beginnings like this that Hitlers are born, and I hope we will never see a *Hitler* in our own part of the world.

[CHIEF ENAHORO]

In regard to Fernando Po, we are delighted to hear from the hon. Minister of Labour that our men there, are doing fairly pretty well, but I did not feel quite happy about Spaniards looking after the wives of our labourers (*Laughter*). I hope that the Minister of Labour will look more closely into that aspect of the matter. The Spaniards are very romantic people.

In regard to the labour front, Sir, I think that, perhaps, we worry ourselves far too much about the rift in the labour front. It is an unfortunate situation, and we would all like to see greater unity in the labour front, but let us not pretend that this is the most important issue which confronts the labour movement to-day. In this House in the past week, we spoke about the situation in the Tin Mines. There are various problems concerning the labour movement and, if at this stage of their existence—I think they are a very young organisation—they are not united, it is too bad, it is deplorable, but it is not as though the labour movement cannot be effective unless they belong to the same central organisation.

I believe that those who belong to the labour movement in this House know even better than myself how for very many years there were two major central organisations in the United States. It did not affect their effectiveness, and I suggest, therefore, to the labour movements that they must be very wary of all advice that they should surrender their international contacts.

The labour movement is an international organisation, and I think it would be dangerous for labour itself, if they permitted themselves to be talked into a situation in which they did not enjoy support from overseas. We must recognise that the labour movement has international complications, and all those who are socialists, and who hope, like myself, for a socialist international organisation one day, will oppose any suggestion that labour in Nigeria should be isolated from labour in other parts of the world. It will be very dangerous for the labour movement in this country to do so.

Finally, Sir, may I appeal to the Minister of Labour in regard to sports subsidies for various organisations.

An hon. Member: Are you talking of cricket?

Chief Enahoro: Well, I am talking of cricket among others. I received a letter—and I am sure many hon. Members did last week—from the Federation of Boys Clubs in Lagos who are complaining that they have no playground. I am sure the Minister himself will remember when he was a youngster, playing about in *Toronto*, which has now been built upon. Gradually the authorities are creeping in, even on the golf course in Ikoyi, and we are arriving at a situation in which there will be no green belts in Lagos.

It will be very bad to the children's future development if they have no playing grounds. I recall the Minister of Labour told me once that when he was a youngster he used to run about in the golf course and pluck mangoes at the cemetery. Now, we are building in on that, and the children have no play grounds. I hope the Minister will take this up with the Minister of Lagos Affairs.

In respect of subsidies, I would like to see the Minister do something for the promotion of golf in this country. I am sure that if many of our Ministers, who may appear healthy on the outside—but one can never tell what may be behind the screen—took up golf playing, they would be very much healthier, they would serve this country better, and I am sure, their performances in this House would be much improved.

You will notice, Sir, that golf is one of the great tourist attractions in the outside world, and I am sure we can also arrive at this happy state of affairs in this country, when golf becomes a national game. The Minister to whom I spoke sometime ago promised to do something for this game, and I am sure he will receive every co-operation from all those eminent Nigerians who now play golf.

Several hon. Members: How many of you?

Chief Enahoro: The hon. the Chief Justice of the Federation, the hon. the Chief Justice of the Eastern Region, the hon. Gentleman who has just spoken, and others.

Dr K. Ezera (Bende East): On a point of explanation, Sir, the Member for Ishan (*Chief Enahoro*) has referred to me as "the Professor

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from Nsukka". I am not a Professor, and that is one. The other point however is that he has elected to correct me on the dangerous trends of *Hitlerism*. That is hypocrisy. (*Interruptions*).

I am speaking on a point of explanation. The point I want to make, Mr Chairman, is that I did not, and I do not advocate any sort of forcible action at Fernando Po. All I did say was that if the conditions of the Nigeria labourers in that territory failed to receive the kind consideration of the Spanish authorities, then it might become possible for the Nigeria Government to enter into negotiation with a view to "purchase", I said "purchase", and purchasing is no *hitleric* tendency; on the contrary, it is the Member for Ishan who has *hitleric* tendencies, and not me.

The Chairman : Order, order ! We should have finished five Heads now but we have completed only one Head. We should be on Head 53 by now, and so, perhaps, I might put the Question.

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

Main Question, put and agreed to.

£510,970 for Head 50—Ministry of Labour—agreed to.

HEAD 51.—MINISTRY OF LAGOS AFFAIRS

Question proposed, That £1,080,360 for Head 51—Ministry of Lagos Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I just like to repeat what I said here last year and, that is, in relation to *Other Charges*, Item 12 in the Head for the Ministry of Lagos Affairs.

I said last year that it is grossly misleading to put there—*Subsidies to Chiefs*—when no Chief of Lagos is receiving a brass farthing as subsidy from the Government. I took that opportunity to say that Government promised Lagos Chiefs some subsidy and, when the portfolio was in the hands of my good friend Alhaji Ribadu, he said he was going to look into the matter. It is nearing three years and we have not heard anything.

It is not correct to say that Lagos Chiefs are receiving subsidy. It is true that the Oba of Lagos, who is clearly defined in Law is

receiving subsidy and there is no point in deceiving the public by saying—*Subsidies to Chiefs*—when we mean, Subsidy to the Oba of Lagos. Let it be clearly stated there: *Subsidy to the Oba of Lagos*—£1,000. That is fair and correct.

Then again, I would like to reiterate my plea that Lagos Chiefs should be given subsidy by the Federal Government somehow. The Government has realised this and has promised to do something. It is time that something was done about this. I plead most sincerely that the Lagos Chiefs along with the Oba of Lagos should be given some kind of subsidy.

I go to the other point and that is to ask the Minister of Lagos Affairs when he will bring before this House, the proposed Bill dealing with Title in respect of Lands in Lagos? It is nearly two to three years now since the same old Friend of mine Alhaji Ribadu invited the service of somebody, I think from the Sudan or from the Colonial Office to investigate this question of Registration of Title of Lands in Lagos. That man sat here and he worked hard and what is more, after he submitted his report a sort of Working Party was organised by the same hon. Gentleman and they too have reported. The Party went to the extent of preparing a draft Bill. I do not see the difficulty of Government in putting the Bill before this House.

I think Government should bestir itself and let us have the Bill discussed in this House so that those who buy Lands in Lagos would not have all the worries and headaches that are attending on them now.

Finally, Sir, I like again to speak on this question of Central Sewage for Lagos. I do not know whether the Minister has that in mind in the next economic programme but with all the health proposals that we are making without a proper central sewage system in Lagos, the importance of which has been stressed by Commissions appointed by Government, without that all our efforts would appear to be in vain. That is a very, very important scheme not only for the health of residents of Lagos, but even for those of you who sojourn in Lagos for a short period of time. I am again asking Government, particularly the Ministry of Lagos Affairs, to bestir itself to action and do something in this direction.

[MR DOSUNMU]

They say it is going to cost a lot of money; if it is going to cost a lot of money and the effect of which would be to reduce the incidence of sickness and death in Lagos, I think if it is done the money spent will be wisely spent. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East): Mr Chairman, Sir, under this Head, I wish to praise the Minister of Lagos Affairs especially on his attempt to be just in the allocation of land. But, the principle of balloting followed by the Minister would, I feel, let him give plots to many people who will not be able to build on them. The result is that they get this land and go out and sell it to Syrians and other expatriates.

Expatriates have access to the land when the people who have the land cannot build on it. I am appealing to the Minister to consider making a rule that anybody who has been allocated a plot by ballot must build on it himself. Where it is found out that he is selling the land to another man the land must be taken away from him. I do not support anybody getting land and then selling it to Syrians when there are many Nigerians who can build but they have no land. That is the point I want to make, Mr Chairman, and I want the Minister to take proper care of this point.

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central): Under the Head for the Ministry of Lagos Affairs, I would first of all like to congratulate the Minister on the allocation of land in Lagos. The question of land in Lagos is a big question which the whole country is waiting to see and, I think, the only solution to it is the extension of the Federal Territory of Lagos.

I have a European friend in Yaba whose house is in the Federal Territory but the boys quarters of his house is in the Western Region. I want that signboard, that huge signboard along Ikorodu Road, to be pulled down. I want hon. Members in this House to have their minds prepared for the August Session of Parliament when finishing touches would be put to the question of the extension of Lagos and all headaches about land will be banished from Lagos.

I am not saying this because I am a Member of the Government Bench and, I am not saying that personal land should be taken from the owners, but the Lagos boundary should

be extended to the spot where it was before the Action Group disrupted it in 1952. Up till to-day, if you walk along Ikorodu Road you will see the signboard in which they say—Colony Province—and that is because we allowed them at that time to plan and do as they liked; it is high time this was stopped and, I want hon. Members to prepare their minds against the August Session of Parliament when the last nail will be put on it.

£1,080,360 for Head 51—Ministry of Lagos Affairs—agreed to.

HEAD 52—MINISTRY OF MINES AND POWER

Question proposed, That £386,830 for Head 52—Ministry of Mines and Power—stand part of the Schedule.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Hon. M. Maitama Sule): Mr Chairman, Sir, one of the main responsibilities of any Government anywhere in the world, is the economic development of that country so as to raise the standard of living of the people higher. This, I am sure, Mr Chairman, can be carried out successfully by exploiting the mineral as well as the natural resources in the country which, I am glad to say, we in Nigeria here have in abundance.

In this regard also, Mr Chairman, my Ministry has the most important task of making known what mineral wealth we have so as to attract people from both within and from without the country to exploit them. Similarly, it is the responsibility of my Ministry to see that there is as far as possible enough electricity supply in order to encourage the growth of industries. Under the circumstances, therefore, I wish with your permission, to seize this opportunity to report to the Committee since I did not have the opportunity of making a general intervention on the general debate during the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

One of the fundamental aims of the Geological Survey Division of my Ministry is the detailed geological mapping of this country which alone can guide the future development of the mineral resources of the country. Without a detailed geological map the time spent in exploration for a particular mineral, which may be of economic importance, may be

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ten times as long as would be the case if an accurate map were available. It has been said that in mining exploration preliminary geological mapping may be compared to the building of roads which open up a country and permit its future development.

The main obstacle in the way of the speedy preparation of maps is a shortage of geologists, for the Geological Survey Division of this country has some of the finest equipment and laboratories in Africa. In order to overcome this shortage, as well as endeavouring to fill the vacancies, my Ministry is making strenuous efforts to obtain outside technical assistance from a number of sources. Our programme for such assistance, which has been prepared, is for a total of sixteen geologists to work in Nigeria, each to be given an area of this country to map during a period of five years. If this plan is accepted by the Technical Agency, it will mean that eighty per cent of the total area of this country, and all of that which is potentially mineral bearing, will have been mapped by the end of the next economic programme.

Sir, the Geological Survey, has, in addition to its general mapping programme, spent a considerable amount of time and money on the evaluation of known mineral resources and over the past few years has proved limestone reserves in the Eastern and Western Regions, both of which now support a local cement works and it has recently completed the drilling of limestones to the west of Sokoto where a deposit of over 15 million tons of limestones suitable for cement making has been proved.

Mr Chairman, Sir, another important aspect of the work of the Geological Survey is that of the investigation of the occurrence and distribution of ground water. This, of course, is particularly important in the semi-arid areas of the North, but it is also of great significance in many parts of the South. During the past decade a total of 695 boreholes have been drilled in Nigeria and this has led to a vast improvement in the quality and quantity of domestic water supplies in many areas. In Bornu it has been proved that an area of 10,000 square miles can produce artesian water from depths of between 700 and 1,200 feet. In order to discover this, geophysical methods employing improved equipment have been

widely used by the Geological Survey which has been greatly assisted by the Overseas Geological Survey of the United Kingdom.

In this connection an application has been made to the United States Government under their I.C.A. Programme for assistance in the proving by drilling of this area and also for a further area which could possibly provide artesian water in Sokoto Province. If all the schemes which have been prepared for the expansion of work by that Division of my Ministry come to fruition, over one and a half million pounds will be spent during the next five years on investigations which could lead to the discovery of additional mineral resources, and which will in any case be of the greatest value in determining to what extent Nigeria can rely in the future on her own resources.

Once again, it is unfortunately the case that the extent of the activities of the Mines Division has been limited by the availability of staff. However, Mr Chairman, although no expansion of the activities of the Division has been possible, the normal work of inspection and such control as is necessary to ensure safe mining and to make certain that the mineral deposits of Nigeria are exploited in the manner which serves the best interests of the country, have been carried out. The Mines School at Jos is developing in spite of staff shortages. Last year three members of the public were trained in a Mining Engineering Course. Now that they successfully passed this Course they are employed in senior supervisory positions in mines on the Plateau. The School also trained members of the staff of the Mines Division, and those who successfully completed the Course have been promoted to the grade of Technical Officer.

Sir, an important development in the mining industry has been the establishment, at present on a small scale, of a tin smelter at Jos. This industry will produce tin metal of a quality acceptable in world markets. Plans have also been made by a second company to set up a second smelter and it is hoped that this will be in operation during the current year.

The markets for the main metalliferous minerals mined in Nigeria are good. The production of tin and columbite is now at a

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high level and the prices of both remain at an attractive level for the mining industry. In this connection, however, it must be noted that the production of tin has not yet recovered to the level achieved before the introduction of tin restriction as it requires a substantial time to rebuild the labour force and to reopen abandoned mining areas. Interest is now being taken in the deposits of barytes in Benue Province and it is expected that these deposits will be actively exploited to supply the local demand for barytes by the oil drilling companies of Nigeria.

You will remember, Sir, that in 1954 Nigeria first joined the International Tin Council. The old Agreement expires this year and a new Agreement will come into operation on the 1st July. During this Session a White Paper will be placed before you and you will be asked to agree that Nigeria should ratify this Agreement which has proved in the past of considerable benefit to the Nigerian tin industry.

Mr Chairman, Sir, from time to time questions are raised in the minds of members and of the public on the advisability of nationalising the mines, particularly the tin mines, in this country. I should like to emphasise now that, in my opinion, such a course at this time would be disastrous both to the welfare of the mining industry and to the economy of Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*). I would like to point out, however, that the demand for nationalisation of the tin mining industry has probably arisen because of widespread dissatisfaction among the workers with conditions on the Plateau minesfield. Sir, I would be much unfair to my conscience if I refused to accept the fact that there is a lot of room for improvement in the conditions of service and perhaps the attitude of the mines operators on the Plateau. I myself have taken up the matter of these conditions with leaders in the industry and I am assured by them that action will be taken to improve them. (*Hear, hear*).

Sir, the most outstanding developments in the exploitation of mineral resources have taken place in the oil mining industry, and Nigeria is rapidly taking her place as a major producer of the world's supply of crude oil. I was disappointed when the efforts of Mobil oil to find oil in the Western Region did not prove to be successful. They drilled four

unsuccessful wells after conducting a large number of seismic surveys, but I am advised by the Oil Consultant retained by the Federal Government that the Company has done all that it is reasonable to expect and that there is not much hope of finding oil or gas in the comparatively small part of the country held under licence by Mobil. The Tennessee Oil and Gas Company has taken out a licence over part of the Western Region and is now carrying out seismic work there. Gulf and Amoseas, the latter being a company owned jointly by Texaco and Standard Oil of California, have each applied for two of the twelve blocks into which the Continental Shelf has been divided for the purpose of oil concessions; Shell BP have also applied for four blocks. A total therefore of eight of the twelve blocks have already been applied for and their applications have been granted; subject only to the signing of the necessary licences.

There are therefore at the moment four areas on the Continental Shelf which have not yet been applied for, and in addition a few areas which Shell-BP had to give up under the terms of their oil prospecting licences. In January, 1962, Shell-BP will have to surrender fifty per cent of the area they still hold under prospecting licences. All these areas will then be available for applications by oil exploration companies and I am giving away no secrets if I say that in that very complex area Shell-BP can hardly avoid giving up land which is almost certain to be oil-bearing.

Mr Chairman, Sir, in these days when there is a surplus of crude oil production it is essential that the companies making any application for oil concessions in Nigeria should have widespread refining and marketing facilities; it would otherwise be extremely difficult to sell crude oil at anything other than a very low price with consequent losses of royalties and profits to Nigeria. It is also essential that any new oil company which is permitted to work in Nigeria is of the highest calibre.

The geological conditions as well as the physical difficulties of negotiating swamp country and undersea drilling make it impossible for any but the biggest, the most competent, and the most experienced companies in the world to make a success of their operations in Nigeria.

The production of crude oil during the past financial year has been at an average rate of about 18,000 barrels a day and rents and royalties to the Government amounted to £1.2 million. During this period production has been restricted by the limited export facilities of Port Harcourt and the shallow draught on the Bonny Bar. This has now been dredged by Shell-BP to about twenty-nine feet with the opening of a new permanent loading terminal on Bonny island, it is estimated that the average rate of production for the coming year will be about 50,000 barrels a day and that rents and royalties will amount to some £2.75 million.

As regards the prospects of increasing production further, Shell-BP are now laying a pipeline from the existing system to a new field being developed to the north of Port Harcourt, and Imo River which will probably be put on test production in 1962. By 1963 or 1964 it is hoped that this extra oil will boost production to the full capacity of the pipeline to about 70,000 barrels per day, and feed the refinery when it starts to operate.

The next oil field area due for development is in the vicinity of Ughelli in the Western Region. Here several important discoveries have been made, notably at Kikori. There are difficulties in evaluating the oil from this area since it will not be easy to lay a pipeline which will be necessary for, besides the crossing of the Niger, it has to traverse extensive swamp areas and a number of deep channels.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.15 p.m.

The Minister of Mines and Power : Mr Chairman, Sir, I was saying before the House rose at 1 o'clock that by 1965 at the latest, production should start in the Ughelli area and gradually build up to 200,000 barrels per day by 1970. Meantime, there is every prospect that by 1970 other companies will have taken up areas surrendered by Shell-BP and will also be producing oil. The figures I have given of production prospects should be achieved but, of course, the actual achievement will depend to a large extent on world conditions of supply and demand.

In addition to the crude oil very large reserves of natural gas have been discovered and it is hoped that in the future it will be possible that

industries will be attracted by these reserves. It is known that this gas is free from noxious sulphur compounds and can therefore be used without treatment. I am convinced that the natural gas of Nigeria will, in time, be the foundation of important industrial development in this country capable of competing on equal cost terms with industry anywhere in the world.

One of the most difficult tasks of my Ministry is that of trying to hold a balance between the various plentiful sources of power for industry which are available, whilst still allowing the competition of economics to play the biggest part in any decision. As a result of our decision not to restrict by direction the use of oil in order to maintain the coal industry the coal miners have had to reduce production, but equally as a result of that decision the Railway and the Electricity Corporations have been able to make substantial reductions in their operating costs to the benefit of the general public. The coal miners have, however, made the most valiant efforts to improve their efficiency and reduce their operating costs and I hope that before long and with vigorous leadership we shall see a smaller, but more efficient coal industry.

Nonetheless the Coal Corporation is now passing through a difficult phase but you will be encouraged to know that the output of the miners has increased from 32.70 cwt per man shift in October 1959, to 60.75 cwt per man shift one year later. In the long term this is bound to have the effect of reducing the cost of producing the coal and it is hoped that the Coal Corporation will be able to make a reduction in the pithead prices very shortly. Meanwhile, I am making every effort to find possible new outlets for coal and if projects, such as the iron and steel industry, materialise, substantial quantities of coal will be needed.

The Electricity Corporation, Mr Chairman, I am happy to say, now appears to be well away from its financial difficulties and is expanding its services as fast as possible. During the past year new undertakings have been started and during the next year it is hoped that more will be completed. The Corporation has also recently conducted a survey with a view to itself financing new undertakings in one more town in each Region and it is hoped that a decision on these towns will be reached in the very near future.

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Even before I served on the Nigerianisation Committee which was set up I was deeply interested in the training prospects of Nigerians for reponsibility, and I am happy to be able to tell you that considerable progress has been made in the bodies for which I am responsible in the promotion of Nigerians. The Coal Corporation has now appointed a Nigerian as the General Manager and the Electricity Corporation will probably do so within the next eighteen months. In the Mines Division a Nigerian is acting as the Deputy Chief Inspector of Mines and training schemes are being pushed ahead for the training of suitable Nigerian in all the technical posts for which I am responsible. Nigerians are being trained in the fields of oil technology, mining engineering and geology and it is expected during the coming financial year that more Nigerians will be trained as electrical engineers with the intention of taking over some of the duties of the Electrical Inspectorate.

I have also ensured in my dealings with all the oil companies that in all agreements a clause is inserted to ensure that at an early stage of their operations they start training schemes covering all phases of their operations to make certain that Nigerians are trained so that in time they will replace all expatriate technical staff and administrators.

Sir, I do not underestimate the importance, the magnitude, and indeed the difficulty of the task that lies ahead of us. Our task becomes the greater when it is remembered that this "Giant of Africa" will one day be called upon sooner or later to shoulder not only her responsibilities but also the responsibilities of her sister African countries. (*Hear, hear*). Indeed, Sir, this "Giant of Africa" will be the centre of all sorts of activities in Africa. We believe that the best approach to African unity that we have so much been talking about is by economic co-operation and it becomes very important for us to try to develop our country economically. (*Hear, hear*).

Sir, I am confident that the Federal Government has the boldness, the courage, the dynamism, and the progressive outlook as well as the determination to accelerate our economic development with a view to helping not only our teeming millions but also our sister African countries in the future. (*Hear, hear*). We are dedicated to this task and so help us God. (*Applause*).

Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North East): Mr Chairman, Sir, it is a pleasure to hear from the Minister of Mines and Power that the so much talked of Giant of Africa is being led at a snail's pace movement towards being able to supply her own needs, and much more towards assisting our brothers and sisters in other parts of Africa. I do hope, Mr Chairman, that when we are realistic enough to realise the size of our own problems, to change our ways and make them commensurate with our problems, we shall then change a bit of our name and attitude and work quite realistically towards helping Nigeria before Africa.

A few days ago, Mr Chairman, my Leader, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, during the course of his speech, touched very intelligently and very practically on the need for nationalisation of certain industries in this country, especially the tin mines. He quoted—and with your permission, Mr Chairman, I want to direct the minds of the hon. Members of this House to the report of the Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria Limited, which showed that within the years 1955 and 1959, the promoters of these mines made enough profit to be able to declare profits ranging from 24 to 99 per cent.

From the *Financial Times*, Mr Chairman, of the 11th and 12th of April, this month, you will find that in June last year the price of tin was £750, but the situation has become so profitable that now it has risen to £840 per ton for immediate delivery, and £843 per ton for delivery within three months. Not only that, Mr Chairman. In the face of the rising prices, the buffer stock which is held by these people is less than 10,000 tons—

The Chairman: Order. Perhaps the hon. Member might move towards the microphone so that the Reporters might be able to hear him more clearly.

Mr Akomolafe: As I was saying, Mr Chairman, the situation is so rosy just now that the buffer stock held is just going to be much short of the demand, so that it is a very promising future for the tin mining industry. In view of that, I think it will be suicidal to allow all the profits which will definitely accrue from the mining industry at present and in the recent future, to accrue just to these promoters while the people who supply the labour are being given less than their subsistence wages. I think also, Mr Chairman

make use of coal. I, too, have got the same thing in mind.

I have said in my speech that I have been considering projects or industries that could make use of coal, one of which is to establish

Retrenchment under these circumstances is inevitable, and I can assure the hon. Member who raised this point that I will intensify my efforts to find a new outlet for coal. I also assure him and the House that I am not

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in the national interest, and to prevent these people from continuing to exploit the sweated labour of these poor people and also to allow plenty of money to accrue to the coffers of the Ministry of Mines and Power and to reduce the amount of loan which the Minister has to take either from the Minister of Finance or from somebody else to be able to go on with his gigantic scheme, it will be in the interest of this country, Mr Chairman, if that industry is nationalised as early as possible. I have given you the figures which are material to show that this country just now is losing both in man-power, in kind and in money by allowing the mining industry to remain in the hands of private entrepreneurs.

Mr Chairman, Sir, one point is very important with regard to this mining industry. Our industries are few, even though the potentialities are great, and if those which are being exploited just now show precedents that the people who undertake them can with impunity take so much into their own pockets while the people who do the work take nothing and the Government which gives them all the protection, to enable them get on with their industry, gets little or next to nothing from it, I think it is a dangerous precedent. That is why I think that in the national interest more than anything else, the mining industry should be nationalised straight away.

A few moments ago the hon. the Minister of Mines and Power was giving out a very rosy picture of Nigerianisation in his Ministry. I always love to hear these things; they make very good hearing. But the pity of it, Mr Chairman, is that the little pockets of glorified Nigerianisation which are reported to us in this House in little bits Minister by Minister, do not in any way at all show, in the first place, any concerted effort in overall co-ordinated planned Nigerianisation of our man-power in this country. Secondly, Mr Chairman, they do not show that we are in any way aware of the great need of the man-power which we require to be able to supply the various strata of our public service, the urgency with which that supply is required, the diversification of the need, and therefore the need, Mr Chairman, for our Government to settle down and plan on a national scale what our need is: industry by industry, job by job on the technical side, and responsibility by respon-

sibility on the administrative side, and conversely, Mr Chairman, to get down to the downright business of settling on the available man-power in the country as a whole—

The Chairman : The hon. Member should have made this speech during the second reading of the Appropriation Bill. I do hope that he will direct his attention to the Ministry of Mines and Power.

Mr Akomolafe : Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. It was the Minister of Mines and Power who said that he was very happy that Nigerianisation in his Ministry has gone on to an appreciable extent, and all I was trying to say was that these little pockets are good in themselves when we hear them, but when put against the background of the needs of our country, they show very little.

Mr Chairman, the Minister of Mines and Power told us that three people were being trained in the School of Mines in Jos and that they have qualified. I want to say that in that Ministry, three is infinitesimally far lower than the need in that Ministry alone. And I cannot understand why that School should remain what it is. Will the Minister of Mines and Power not see the advisability of enlarging that School now, taking in more students and accelerating their training so that within the next two or three years when he will stand up on the Floor of this House he will be happier to report to us that, while in 1961 he reported three trained, this year he is able to report three hundred trained? That alone, I think, Mr Chairman, is what will satisfy our need. That is just all that I want to explain and I hope the Minister of Mines and Power will take it into consideration.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Abaja and Ngwo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move the amendment standing in my name to reduce Item 1 of Sub-head 1 by £5.

Sir, I would like to speak particularly on the Coal Corporation because the coal industry is the mainstay of the economy of my Division and I would like to draw the attention of the House to the answer given by the Minister to Question No. O.204 yesterday.

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in Nigerianisation, and I will pursue vigorously my efforts to see that Nigerians take their proper places. (*Hear, hear*).

Question, That Sub-head 1 be reduced by £5, put and negatived.

Main Question put and agreed to.

£386,830 for Head 52—Ministry of Mines and Power—agreed to.

HEAD 53—MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
AND AVIATION

Question proposed, That, £920,670 for Head 53—Ministry of Transport and Aviation—stand part of the Schedule.

The Chairman : Order. I propose that Members speak generally on the Heads and not to move an Amendment unless it is their particular intention to do so.

Mr Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in contributing my quota on this Head I would first of all like to congratulate the Minister of Transport and Aviation for his sagacity and quiet poise in carrying out the work of his Ministry. (*Hear, hear*). As the House will agree with me, the Minister deserves to—(*Interruptions*).

Mr Chairman : There is a very unnecessary interruption, please.

Dr Ezera : The Minister of Transport and Aviation, Sir, deserves the tributes of this House and indeed of the whole country for the wise appointment of the Chairmanship of the Nigerian Railway Corporation. (*Hear, hear*). Dr Okechukwu Ikejiani, who is the Chairman of the Nigerian Railway Corporation, is one of the Nigeria's foremost nationalists. He has effectively and successfully cleared the mess in the Nigerian Railway as anybody will agree.

Sir, what is needed now is for the Government to take the next radical step so that when the General Manager of that Corporation goes a Nigerian must occupy that post at once.

Now, Sir, the other point I would like to touch upon is about the shipping line. The Minister read out a Ministerial Statement the other day.

An hon. Member : Briggs, keep quiet.

Dr Kalu Ezera : Briggs cannot listen, because he lives in water. He does not travel by rail.

The Minister made a Ministerial Statement the other day in which I think he spoke of the shipping line. It is the wish of this house, and of the whole country, that the sooner the shipping line is nationalised the better for all of us, as independent Nigeria cannot afford to tolerate any more monopoly in any guise at all, and the shipping line should become fully nationalised as soon as possible.

Now, Sir, the other point which I must say distresses me a little bit is the Aviation Department in which, I think, under this Head we have some provision for a training scheme, a Federal Flying Training School. Now, I am not very happy that even at this day, six months after independence (I stand to be corrected in this) that Nigeria has not been able to produce a single pilot of her own who could man her planes from here to London, or *vice versa* from here to Ghana.

But I think a very vigorous effort should be made to train Nigerians to begin to man our own planes. The Nigerian Airways, I am told, is now beginning to make profit. I do not think this is the proper place to ask the Minister to tell us how much profit they are now making but the truth is that Nigerian Airways has not truly detached itself from the British Overseas Airways—B.O.A.C. The Nigerian Airways is still an appendage of the B.O.A.C. and only an appendage in so far as losses are concerned. When profits do come, the B.O.A.C. run the show and the Nigerian Airways suffers the losses. Now, I hope this is not correct and would like the Minister to touch on this point.

Now, on the whole, Sir, I think that the Ministry of Transport and Aviation have lived up to expectation and there is no doubt that the country is very happy with its profits. The other point is in regard to the Ports Authority and the sooner this is also Nigerianised in the sense that a Nigerian should become the Chairman, the better. I think the Minister has promised us that much and I hope it would come in time. I support the Head.

The Chairman : Order. Perhaps it is worthwhile that we discuss the three Heads, 53, 54 and 55, that is Ministry of Transport and Aviation, Coastal Agency and Inland Waterways, and generally, I think it is the wish of the House.

Hon. Members : Yes, yes.

Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, in debating these Heads, I should like to refer to one alarming event hapening almost everyday about which the Minister of Transport and Aviation does not seem to care. It is the question of train derailments which are so often and regular that they cannot be regarded as normal accidents which are expected in normal life. Train derailments, Mr Chairman, are so common that one is forced to the conclusion that there is something wrong in the Nigerian Railway Corporation. Even yesterday, Mr Chairman, there was an announcement over the radio that there was a train derailment at Kafanchan where several train waggons were wrecked. This is the third or the fourth in the last fourteen days. The Minister must regard train derailments as many as they occur nowadays, as very serious and I advise him to set up a Commission of Inquiry to find out why so many train derailments occur nowadays and find a solution.

The other point, Mr Chairman, is, we say that Aviation will be Nigerianized sooner or later. This is very delightful to hear, but the only snag about it is that the Minister does not seem to be so energetic with the question of flights to which my hon. Friend has just referred. I understand that we have only seven students in the Flying School at the moment and there is not sufficient encouragement in the school. The students are not well cared for. They only get £12-10s-0d a month and they have no boarding whatsoever. They are not at all encouraged and there are certain tendencies in the school which prove that the Minister is over-confident about the advice he gets from the officials. I think it is time that the Minister in his efforts to Nigerianize our Civil Aviation, should pay attention to this important school as without it, his efforts will not bear fruit.

There is also one point, Mr Chairman, which I should like to bring the Minister's attention. It is about training of staff in Nigerian Ports Authority. The idea is welcome. But the tendency is that those who are recruited to train in this Department are often discouraged. Nearly everyday, you find those who have been recruited, particularly from the North, driven away for certain reasons. I think, if the Minister tries to investigate he will find the reasons are not enough to

dismiss such people. Even, this morning, Mr Chairman, I understand that one Northerner has been driven away on a very lame reason very lame indeed and he is not the first. Many of them are being driven and this is a matter which the Minister should look into because if we say that we want people to be recruited and trained to staff our Departments, there is no reason why they should be sent away like that. They are often discouraged. I hope the Minister will see to this question.

I beg to support.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): Mr Chairman, I would like to say a few words about the Railway Corporation. Once, I was passing with a friend of mine along Iddo Railway Station and he pointed to it and said; "This is the dullest Railway Station in the world" and when I turned my face and saw this Railway Station, I had thoughts that he was perfectly right.

An hon. Member: In what way?

Mr Briggs: Mr Chairman, I do not know whether the Minister will not want to look into the possibility of putting more pep, and better working conditions into our Railway Corporation. It does not pay; from the Elias Commission, it is very clear it is not a paying proposition and I quite realise the activities of road transport undermining our Railway system. But I think it is for the Minister to investigate what is the cause, what is the reason, what are the causes of the loss and also what are the ways to ameliorate it.

It is one of the slowest. The average speed is about twenty miles per hour, I understand. I think it is one of the slowest in the world if it is true that it is twenty miles an hour and you would not blame any trader sending his goods by lorry instead of by train which would normally go from here to Port Harcourt in three days, a distance which a lorry would take about a day or two to cover.

An hon. Minister: But it is shorter.

Mr Briggs: Shorter, yes, shorter I admit, and that is for the Minister to investigate whether there is a possibility of either changing the track or bringing out a faster train for this country.

[MR BRIGGS]

Then there is a further point, Mr Chairman, which has very little to do with the actual running of the trains themselves, and that is something which I mentioned last year and I am mentioning it again. It is the question of an expatriate doctor who is the medical officer for the Port Harcourt branch of the Railway Corporation. The gentleman concerned is a very nice man, a very decent man. But this is a question of principle. If there are many Nigerian doctors, private practitioners, who are good enough, I do not see why an expatriate, who incidentally, I understand was an ex-Government official, who has had his lump sum compensation, should go home and then come back again to practise in Port Harcourt. I am not against his coming back to Port Harcourt or anywhere in Nigeria for that matter, because we want many more doctors. As we were told recently there are forty thousand people running after only one doctor. So that if there are more doctors, it is all right. But this question of special privilege given him, £2,500 a year. I think if there are qualified Nigerians, we are asking for Nigerianisation, such Nigerian doctors should be given preference. It is the same thing which we are fighting in the Legal Profession and I think the Attorney-General and the Minister of Transport, who is a lawyer, will also bear me out.

Then I come to the Shipping Lines, Mr Chairman. I have very strong feelings about the nationalisation of the Shipping Lines. The nationalisation of the Shipping Lines, Sir, is something which has been suggested over and over again, not only on the Floor of this House, but also in the newspapers and outside this House. I think if the Minister has nothing very, very strong against the nationalisation of this particular industry from the point of view of its being a paying proposition, he should consider it worthwhile to nationalise it.

I am sorry to say that the political complexion of our present Government is capitalist although it is going by false pretences according to the Minister of Finance, who says it is democratic socialism. Either he does not understand what is democratic socialism or it is going about under false pretences. Even if it is democratic socialism, of what use is it? I think nationalisation should form a very important and fundamental feature of the programme of this Government.

Mr Chairman, I come to the question of ferrying at Port Harcourt and between Onitsha and Asaba. The ferry is not very well run. Most of us come from the Rivers Province in the Eastern Region and we find it very difficult to ferry across to Onitsha. We are always confronted with a notice that there is only one ferry now and the others are not there. You have to wait for hours before you can go across. The last time I was coming, I had to wait for about five hours before I could get transported over to go to Lagos. So the Minister of Transport, I hope will consider the advisability of either getting more ferries or much faster ones so that if there is only one ferry it could do many trips within an hour, so that the unnecessary delay that is being caused at Onitsha and Asaba will be avoided.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr E. O. Ifezue (Orlu North): Mr Chairman, Sir, I just like to make one or two comments about this Ministry. Sir, in 1958 a law was passed in this Parliament to constitute the patrolmen of the Nigerian Airways into a disciplined force. I could remember that this was not popular by then as the Aeronautical Union protested because it would make this class of workers withdraw from trade union activities. Now I understand, Sir, that that law has not been implemented and I would like the Minister of Transport to make some comments about it. Because at the moment this class of workers suffer from some anxiety as to whether they would be made a disciplined force or not.

Another thing, Sir, is that I understand that the Minister of Transport—and I congratulate him for that—is making plans to make the Nigerian Railway Corporation a purely Nigerian concern. At the moment it is not enough for us to say that Nigeria has a controlling share in the Corporation; we must also have a controlling voice in staffing and in all the operations of the Corporation. I say this, Sir, with special reference to the running of domestic and international air services. You find that in the domestic service, the B.O.A.C. takes the most profitable routes—from Lagos to Kano. I consider that the most profitable route and the B.O.A.C. has that as a right. The Lagos to Kano route is not only profitable but it is a daily schedule; then the Nigerian Airways is left to operate a less profitable route

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from say Lagos to Port Harcourt or something like that. My point is that even if we make the Airways a purely Nigerian concern, we should be careful to find out that we are controlling all the operations there and that they are not left in the hands of the expatriates otherwise they will like to give profitable routes to other Airways. Again, Sir, the Nigerian Charter Service operates three times weekly from Lagos to London and the aircraft is rented by the Corporation from the B.O.A.C., and yet the profit is shared on a fifty-fifty basis. I was wondering whether the Minister could do something about it. I do not think it is fair to the Nigerian Airways Corporation.

Another thing, Sir, is that both the Ports Authority and the Nigerian Railway Corporation can afford to train certain Nigerian technicians. At least they have some training facilities. If only the Minister of Transport will consider giving them little aid, they will be able to train certain technicians for the whole country. At the moment they train only for their own use; but if they are given money to expand training facilities, they can supply technicians both for the Government and for individual concerns. So, I would like the Minister of Transport to put this into consideration.

I beg to support.

M. Shettima Ali Monguno (Kara Marghi) : Undoubtedly, this Ministry is pulling its weight and it also deserves congratulations. Especially those of us who come from Bornu have been feeling that the Railway line is approaching us. We hope that it will be completed at the expected time.

I have few points to raise not because I have any grudge against the activities of this Ministry, but because I discovered, Sir, after going through the Federal Staff List of 1961, that under Head 55 of the Estimates, Inland Waterways, we have also Hydrological Engineers. Engineering is a very difficult course but looking at things, one cannot help bringing in the issue of Nigerianisation. Here, Sir, you have the post of Assistant Director and also the post of Hydrological Engineer, the post of Senior Hydrological Engineer and another under Niger Division, the post of Principal Hydrological Engineer. Nearly all these posts are at the moment held by expatriates. I presume

it is because we have no qualified Nigerians to take over these posts. This is all right.

I have no grudge against any expatriate officer from whom we have no qualified person to take over. But, Sir, I wonder what this Ministry is doing in the way of training our own men. Are there Nigerians undergoing courses overseas or any internal courses with a view to their taking over from these expatriate officers? Are such people being trained? This is, I think, all I have to say under Head 55.

Coming to Airways, Sir, I noticed, at a place called Miami in Niger Republic, a plane—an American Jet Airliner, I suppose—taking off and I asked a question, I asked an airman for that matter, a captain of a plane, whether that type of plane has ever landed in Nigeria. Sir, I was told that we have not the airports whose run-ways are long enough or strong enough to support that sort of undertaking, to enable those planes to land or take off in Nigeria. If this is so, Sir, may I appeal to the Minister concerned to do something in order to enable such planes to land in Nigeria also. If they can land at a place like Miami, why not in Nigeria. We have been boasting of our airports, our international airports at Kano and Ikeja; at least, these two airports should be brought up to international level, so that these planes could use them.

Finally, Sir, I would like to touch on Maiduguri airport. I do not want to be selfish, but I cannot help mentioning Maiduguri airport. Maiduguri airport has, for a long time, been used by international planes and I would like this Ministry to look into it and, if possible, bring it up to standard with a view to reducing the possible congestion at the Kano Airport or using it in case of emergency. I once more congratulate the Minister and I support.

Oba S. A. Oladiran (Okitipupa South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to associate myself in congratulating the Minister of Transport and Aviation for his activity in respect of the Nigerianisation policy in his Ministry. Most of the Members here have spoken of transport on railways or transport on land, but I for one, I am going to touch only on the Inland Waterways because I come from a river area. (Interruptions.)

The Chairman : Order, order.

Oba Oladiran : Mr Chairman, Sir, under Head 55—Inland Waterways—I would like to call the attention of the hon. Minister of Transport and Aviation to the bad condition of the wharfs or jetties on all marine ports in the Western Region, particularly in a town called Egbetebo in Okitipupa Division. It is high time that Government does something about these wharfs and jetties in order to bring them up to date because there are times when the Governor-General himself travel to that area when visiting a town called Ajetoro. I would invite most of you to go and view that blessed land—a town built on water—and you will be amazed. When the Governor of Western Region or the Governor-General visits that place, they make use of this particular wharf, so that I appeal to the Federal Government to do something to get the wharf to a better condition.

An hon. Member : How did you travel there yourself?

Oba Oladiran : By air. (*Laughter.*)

Mr Chairman, Sir, the condition of this wharf at Egbetebo is such that you will be sorry for any Government official making use of it. I am appealing to the Minister of Transport to tour this Region in order to see things for himself. Annually, an expatriate officer is posted to that place to see about the clearing of the source, I wonder if he will not give a report of that particular work.

The Minister of Communications (Hon. Olu. Akinfosile) : On point of information, Sir, I have already invited the hon. Minister of Transport, Sir, to visit my constituency! (*Laughter.*)

Oba Oladiran : Mr Chairman, Sir, I have very little to say and with these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to start by congratulating the Minister of Transport and Aviation for his good achievements for this country, on the progress made on the improvements of the different ports and aerodromes and the Bornu Railway Extension now under construction. It is important that the building of other railway lines in this country should be considered. Sir, the building of a railway line

to connect the East and West through Agbor via Benin to Oshogbo or Ibadan is very important. (*Interruptions*)

The Chairman : Order, order.

Mr Eboigbodi : This being so, Sir, sufficient space should be provided on the River Niger Bridge now being built for an East to West railway line. (*Applause.*) A railway train put into operation will very considerably shorten the round-about journey from Lagos, via Northern Region to the Eastern Region. It will also facilitate the easy and cheaper transportation of millions of tons of goods from the East, the Mid-West, and the Western Region to Lagos. It will stimulate economic development of these areas, bring in large revenue to this country and help to reduce mass unemployment in this country. (*Hear, hear.*)

Now, Sir, the question of road accidents is the next point I have. Road accidents are very alarming, death is alarming on the roads of this country. I want to ask the Minister to find out further the root causes of this alarming evil which usually brings unexpected sadness and sorrow to different homes. I suggest that driving schools should be established; it should be made impossible for any illiterate to drive, so as to be sure that all drivers will be able to read road signs. Also, driving licences should be given only to those people who really pass driving tests. I also suggest widening our roads and bridges, especially those from Ilesha to Asaba.

The Chairman : Order, I suppose this is the responsibility for the Ministry of Works which we shall discuss when we finish this Head.

Mr Eboigbodi : I beg your pardon, Sir. I am sure this will help to reduce accidents on our roads and with these comments, Sir, I beg to support the Bill.

M. Abdullahi Magajin Musawa (Musawa) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting this Head, I want to congratulate the Minister of Transport. But, Sir, the point which I want to raise is very short. I am sure, Sir, every member of the Northern Region will bear me out that every Wednesday, at about 8.30 in the N.B.C. Northern Region, you will hear from the 'Public Opinion' asking the

Minister of Transport to do all the best possible to stop the gambling in the train. That is *wala wala*. I appeal to the Minister to take immediate action on this point.

The second point is that I think it is now time for the Minister of Transport if possible, to make public announcements in vernaculars by loudspeakers in the main railway stations like Kano, Zaria, Port Harcourt so as to make it convenient for passengers to know where they are going and where they are to drop.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in contributing to the debate on the Head of Transport and Aviation, I would like to touch briefly upon four points.

The first one is the fact that the Chairman of the Nigerian Railway Corporation is doing a part-time job. We are all aware, Sir, of the difficulties which the Nigerian Railway Corporation faces at the moment. When the erstwhile Chairman was asked to retire, I thought the new Chairman would be given full-time appointment but to my surprise, I got to know quite recently that Dr Ikejiani is a part-time Chairman in which case, he will not be expected to devote all his energies to the affairs of the Nigerian Railway Corporation. He would not be expected, that is what I am saying. I know he works there till late in the night. He is trying his best but the fact that he is a part-time Chairman will naturally make him spare sometime for his own profession or for other duties. I think, Sir, that the hon. the Minister of Transport and Aviation will consider making that post full-time job. If he finds it difficult to get Dr Ikejiani to agree to give full-time service to the Corporation, he should appoint somebody else.

An hon. Member : To appoint you ?

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I am not interested. It cannot pay me.

Another point is about the Board of the Corporation. It is the practice all over Nigeria, not peculiar to the Federal Government, that appointments to Board and Corporations are made from party supporters without regard to their qualifications or

experience. I am saying it quite honestly that it is the practice of most Governments in the Federation. But in a Corporation like the Nigerian Railway Corporation, which has the profit motive behind it, I think it is a pernicious policy for us to appoint members to such Boards on the grounds of party patronage or blood relationship. I know that on the Board of the Nigerian Railway Corporation to-day, we have some people who have had something to do with railway transport but I dare say that most of the members are either too old to serve on that Board because of the difficulties which that Board is facing now. So, Sir, I will request the hon. Minister to try and adopt method being practised in such other countries where you try to instil not only blood into a Board of that kind but also you get people who are specialists in their lines.

You can look round and get economists who are not members of any party or not known members of any party and inject them there. You can look around our Universities, technical colleges or even in our schools and find people who will be able to do real service and not people who will regard the £400 or £600 that you pay them there as a wind-fall or pension and will not like to look to the face of the Chairman or to offend the Minister because he might not be returned into the Board. I think it is good policy that in cases of this nature (I was a member of a Board myself, I was the Chairman), we should not make blood relationship or party support as the criterion for appointment.

On the Bornu Extension, Sir, I know that contracts and sub-contracts were given to people engaged on the Bornu Extension but my information at the moment is that the money which has been spent on the job which has been completed so far is far in excess of the amount of work which should have taken up the money. I was made to understand...

An hon. Member : Quote the amount.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : They have spent nearly £20 million. I may be wrong but I ask the hon. the Minister to look into it because my information is that unless something is done and done quickly within the next 5 years, the Nigerian Railway Corporation will be saddled with the payment of interest that will be nearly

[CHIEF AKIN-OLUGBADE]

£2 million a year in respect of these operations with the result that for eternity, it will never be possible for our Nigerian Railway Corporation to make headway. I would like him to look into that matter.

Now, as regards training of our pilots. I understand Sir, that in a sister colony, in a sister self-governing nation,

Several hon. Members : Mention names. You are afraid to mention Ghana.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : In this respect, I am not saying that Ghana is far ahead of Nigeria, what I am saying is that those in Ghana have tried to adopt new methods and they have made efforts to invite new tutors. I think one of the advantages of Independence is the opening of the door or the doors to every nation in the world. It takes our own Nigerian boys here four to five years, or at least that is what we are told, before one of them can become a pilot but in Ghana it takes between twelve months and eighteen months. (*An hon. Member : That is why they crash! (Interruptions).*)

The Chairman : Order, order. Chief Akin-Olugbade.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I understand it takes between twelve months and eighteen months. Well, it is the job of the hon. Minister to find out how to quicken the pace of the training of our boys.

We have been told of the Flying School here. I do not know whether half the Members of this House really know whether there is a Flying School existing in Lagos or not if we want to be honest with ourselves. And, what is more, we are spending money on it. We have not been able to say, "Well, this is what I know we have". I was told we have only one Nigerian pilot. (*An hon. Member : Who ?*)

I think, Sir, that the hon. Minister should try to look into this matter because the quicker it takes our boys to be qualified as pilots the less money we spend in training them.

And one domestic matter which I mentioned casually to the Minister is the question of Aro Bridge in Abeokuta. That bridge was built a few decades ago. It connects Aro with the Id Lafenwa Station at Abeokuta. (*Interruption.*) Let it not be said that it concerns the

Ministry of Works; it is a Railroad bridge. It is not a motor road. A lot of money has been spent on this, and it is one of the strongest bridges in the country.

I would respectfully ask the Minister of Transport to find out more information about this bridge. It is a long bridge, over two hundred yards long, and very solid. Well, the people who are using it now are mere pedestrians. I would like to know whether the Minister would not consider either improving the bridge or handing it over to the Minister of Works and Transport and converting it into a motor road which will shorten the distance between Aro Quarry and Aro Station by about seven miles. I think the hon. Minister should look into that, otherwise I will put in a substantive Motion about it.

Mr I. S. Onwuchewa (Ahoada Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting this Head I have to congratulate the Minister concerned for the recent Terminal Restaurant opened at Port Harcourt Airport. That restaurant is a very fine piece of work and the Minister should be commended for that.

While I commend the Minister I should think that Port Harcourt Airport is large enough and wide enough to become an international airport. Last time during the speech from the Throne when the Governor-General was making some remarks on certain airports that would be enlarged, I was disappointed, myself, to find that Port Harcourt Airport was not one of them.

I think that we should think of this airport as well as we think of others, because it is an important one.

Another point I would like to make, Sir, is about Inland Waterways, particularly in regard to the ferry service from Onitsha to Asaba. One has often to wait up to five or six hours, and many Members have come late to this House owing to the delay caused there. As I gathered the two ferry boats plying that river are bad. It may be nearly impossible or very difficult, for Members to get away from here, at least those of us from the East, unless certain arrangements are made. Some people say that people pay tips before they can cross and I think that the Minister should see about that.

With this, I beg to support.

M. Aminu Kano (Kano East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I think it is proper that I congratulate the Minister of Transport and Aviation. (*Hear, hear*). For the work he has performed, and also say that the appointment of Dr Ikejiani is welcome. I want to make it clear that the rumour which is going about and circulating the country that the Chairman, Dr Ikejiani, is anti-European is not true. He is only trying to Nigerianise the services. (*Hear, hear*). And this is the policy for which we stand. We may even ask for much higher Nigerianisation of the Railway Corporation.

I would like to attack the question of the training of pilots. I want to share the view that independence means opening doors for more opportunities and more capacity to rule and to manage our own affairs. I do not agree that it must take five years before you train a pilot. I believe that there are many countries to-day which are prepared—young countries—which are prepared and which even do prepare their men and women as pilots in a much shorter time than the old mother countries like Britain or Germany or the United States of America.

If the theory is accepted that if you want to teach a man how to fly an aeroplane he must be able to start by riding a camel and then a bicycle and then a motor car and then an aeroplane, you will never get there. I believe that when you want to teach a fellow to fly an aeroplane, you have to put him in an aeroplane and make him fly it.

If you want, Mr Chairman, to teach a man how to shoot, you do not start by giving him a stone to throw, you give him a gun and he shoots. It is the same thing with the pilots. I do not want to see the pilots necessarily trained in England where, by tradition, he must start and go on for many years. You can go to Japan, to Israel, to all the other countries to-day which has trained pilots in eighteen months and these pilots are as good as any pilots in the world.

I also want the Minister to give this House some explanation about the increase in freight by the Nigerian Shipping Lines to ten per cent. Is it true that freight has been increased very quietly and very secretly by the Nigerian Shipping Lines to ten per cent? Sir, there should be some explanation to that effect.

I want the Minister also to do something about our road transport system. He should carry out a survey of the whole transport system, particularly road transport system in order to get more efficiency and better operation. For example, we have some expatriate motor dealers who own most of the goods carried and who determine the freight. This is very important and that is why the Minister is advised to carry out a survey of our transport system with a view to improving its efficiency, so that the people of this country may benefit from the overall result.

There is another point which has been raging in the minds of many people in this House, especially the people from Kano Province or the Northern Region as a whole, and that is the question of Kano Airport.

Several hon. Members: One Nigeria, one Nigeria

M. Aminu Kano: Yes, one Nigeria, but where do you come from? You come from a home, and when you leave here tomorrow, you do not go to "One Nigeria", you go to your home.

Sir, Kano Airport is an international airport. The other day, the hon. Alhaji Bello Dandago, the Government Chief Whip in this Parliament, in the course of his speech made this complaint, but I think the Minister did not care to answer. There is rumour that all the facilities at Kano airport are going to be shifted because certain aeroplanes cannot use the airport and so on and so forth. I say, Sir, that Kano is the only city in Africa to-day which was famous before the advent of Europeans in Africa, and still continues to be famous to-day. We are not going to live to see the importance of this place minimised and put to the background simply because of the interest of certain commercial agencies. I would like the Minister himself to explain whether it is true that Kano airport is no longer going to be an international airport.

I know that the Sabena Airline, Air France, the K.L.M., and other foreign airlines may still continue to use the airport, but what about the B.O.A.C.? I understand that the B.O.A.C. is putting up a new service, the Jet-London to Lagos, and when we asked why, they said the Jet would take only one hour to fly from Kano

[M. AMINU KANO]

to Lagos. Well, if this is the attitude of the B.O.A.C. after they have benefited immensely in this country, we would like the Minister to adopt a nationalistic line against them.

One more point, Sir, is this: we appreciate what the Minister has done about the training of air hostesses for the Nigeria Airline. We appreciate very much the speed with which the Ministry is training young girls to act as hostesses in the planes but I want to say that not only must we insist on courtesy, we must also insist on better service, and the duties of these hostesses apart, we want proper service, and in a good way.

Finally, Sir, there has been agitation for the last two years by the Nigerian Airways Workers Union for better conditions of service. I remember that I brought this matter to the notice of the Minister last year. He told me then that the position was the same all over the world, and that may be, I did not understand it. I would like the Minister to make it quite clear to this House whether the conditions of service of Nigerian workers in the service of the B.O.A.C. and the Nigeria Airline are the same as those of the Government or other agencies in the country.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): I would like, Sir, to thank all the various Members for the very constructive way in which they have contributed to this debate. I will endeavour to answer some of the more important points that have been raised.

Dr Ezera wants the post of General Manager in the Nigerian Railway Corporation to be nigerianised. I am sure that he will be pleased to hear that already a Nigerian has been appointed Deputy General Manager, which is just one step below. (*Applause*).

The same gentleman also made a point that he does not know whether Nigeria has produced even a single pilot. I would like to say that so far Nigeria had produced three pilots, but unfortunately, we lost one of them sometime ago, and two are left. These two Nigerians, who have obtained their pilot's licence, are now gaining the necessary experience before they can become Captains of the big aircraft that ply between here and London.

Dr Ezera also wanted to know something about the profit made by Nigeria Airways. I think that I mentioned this when I was speaking on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill. At the end of the last financial year, the estimated profit was in the neighbourhood of a quarter of a million pounds. (*Hear, hear*).

I think I should seize this opportunity to say a few words about the connection between Nigeria Airways and the B.O.A.C. I have already announced that the Nigeria Airways is purely a Nigerian Company now that the commercial partners have surrendered their shares and these shares have been fully paid for by the Federal Government. (*Hear, hear*). We are still associated with the B.O.A.C. just as the Ghana Airways, the Indian Airways and the Pakistan Airways are, for the purpose of operating between our country and the United Kingdom, and we do so because that association has obvious advantages. B.O.A.C. has sixty or more aircraft, whereas if we were to operate on our own, we would perhaps have two or three aircraft. If we give them traffic rights to ply between the United Kingdom and Nigeria and allow them a wide scope to put on the service as many aircraft as they like B.O.A.C. will carry most of the traffic offering to the detriment of Nigeria Airways. We can only afford to put on that route two or three but they can afford to put about twenty. Therefore, the various countries do not allow this to happen and they make sure that the larger Airlines do not make too heavy a profit at the expense of the smaller countries. Consequently we operate between here and London the same number of times that B.O.A.C. operates between London and Lagos and what happens is that at the end of the month or year the profits are all pooled together and divided equally between B.O.A.C. and Nigerian Airways. That is the reason why we are able to make so much profit.

I am sure, that hon. Members will appreciate that if it is a free fight, or free competition, we cannot stand up to them now. The fact that they are able to agree to these arrangements shows that they do not want to throw their weight about too much and to use their vast resources to the detriment of Nigerian Airways.

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Mallam Ibrahim Gusau spoke about train derailment. I do not think that by comparison with what obtains in other parts of the world there are too many derailments on our Railways. We have a Government Inspector of Railways, a very experienced and highly qualified Railway Engineer whose duty it is to watch the Railways and make sure that the tracks are in good condition, and whenever there is any derailment or any other trouble he goes straight to the spot to find out why such derailment has occurred. He submits his report, if necessary, to me and advises on how to avoid such derailments in the future.

The training in the Ports Authority is a very important part of the work of that Authority and the Training School has been commended by very many visitors. A large number of Nigerians are training there. At the moment, in fact, over one thousand Nigerians have passed through the School and quite a large number are still in training. We have made every effort, the Chairman has been very co-operative in this, to attract trainees from the Northern Region and we have always made sure that special trips are made to the various Schools in the North to invite Northerners to come in and, where it is necessary, we are prepared to admit them at a slightly lower level because we know that during the training they are generally able to catch up. Everything is being done to encourage Northerners to enter the Federal Service and the Service of the Corporations and other bodies which are run by the Federal Government. I am quite sure that the hon. Member will not be a party to indiscipline. If a student does not want to be disciplined, then he will be no good and in such a case I will be one with the Management of the Authority if they insist that students who pass through the Training School must observe the general discipline of the School.

I want to assure the Member that I will look into this matter, but I am pretty sure that if any student has been sent away, either he has not got the aptitude required for the training or he is not amenable to discipline. In either case, I think it will be to his advantage if he left the training in time.

Mr Briggs spoke about the Railway Compound and the Terminal. I do not know how far Mr Briggs has travelled. I am

aware that he is more at home in the Creek areas; but if he had travelled far enough, I think he will agree that the Railway Terminus here is definitely cleaner and brighter than Euston Station. Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not want to pursue that. The Headquarters of the Railway Corporation are at Ebute-Metta and not at Iddo. You want to go to Ebute-Metta, the Headquarters of the Corporation.

He also mentioned an expatriate Doctor at Port Harcourt. I am informed that the reason why this gentleman was employed was that there were not enough Nigerian Doctors who applied. It is a big problem to get Nigerians to apply for this kind of job; that is the reason. The gentleman in question is an Indian. An Indian Doctor had to be employed because Nigerian Doctors were not forthcoming. If you are talking of the retired expatriate British Doctor he is not working for the Railways. He does private practice; I know the gentleman you are talking about.

I now come to the Shipping line. I have already said that Government is going to take over the shares of the Commercial partners and I have already given the hint to the Commercial partners and, I am sure, they will agree to sell their shares to the Federal Government. What only remains for me is to get the necessary funds from Government and the funds amount to very nearly £1 million. I am sure that as soon as I get that I should be able to convince the Commercial partners to withdraw from the Nigerian National Lines. (*Several hon. Members: When?*) I think it is safe for me to say that before this House meets again I hope to be able to report to the House as I reported regarding the Airways that the deed has been completed. (*Hear, hear.*)

The Aerodrome Fire Service which has been mentioned by hon. Ifezue is being looked into. The regulations concerning this service have just been formulated and very soon the Law will be brought into force. There have been a lot of negotiations with the Trade Unions concerned, but I think we have been able to convince them that it is to their benefit that the Fire Service should become a disciplined force. Mr Ifezue also mentioned the question of Air Traffic Control Officers. He called them Operators, I think. He is under the impression that these people have some

thing to do with the allocation of Traffic rights or passengers. I have already explained that on the International route, Nigerian Airways operates with B.O.A.C. on a pool basis and there is no question of one or the other taking advantage. The profits are pooled and shared at a 50-50 rate.

I think Mallam Ali Monguno mentioned the question of Hydrological Engineers. Here, I would like to appeal to Members to help the Department in finding Nigerian Engineers who are willing to take up courses in Hydrology. First of all, they have got to get the basic qualification as Engineers either Civil or Mechanical and we have scholarships to give them. There are scholarships available to quite a number to go to Universities in Holland to do a specialist course which will make them proper Hydrological Engineers. Unfortunately, we have not had sufficient response to this appeal and I was very depressed to hear that one of the two that went to Holland has since returned to Nigeria and has abandoned Engineering completely and is now a trader somewhere in the Calabar area.

As regards Airways, we have two important Airports and I will take this opportunity to clear the air regarding certain rumours that are now going round. Kano Airport and Ikeja Airport, are the two International Airports we have and there is no question of removing the facilities at Kano so as to make Kano less important. As a matter of fact, during the present financial year, I propose to see that the runway at Kano and the runway at Lagos Airport are extended so that these Airports can take the largest International Aircraft such as Boeing 707, D.C.8 and so on. No aircraft can land on our airports without special permission and we can only give them permission when we are sure that the facilities necessary exist.

I have noted what the Oba said about certain jetties in his constituency and I am going to make some enquiries so as to find out whether the jetties are a Federal or Regional responsibility. If they are Federal, I can assure him that I will see that something is done.

The question of a railway line connecting the East and West comes up to this House every year. It is quite an interesting proposition, but I am quite sure that now that the Railway Corporation is engaged on a major project of

extending the railway towards Bornu, nobody can seriously urge that another large-scale extension of the railway should be undertaken simultaneously. I believe, of course, that when the Bornu extension is completed and our resources improve, the question of extending the railway to other parts of the country will be considered; and if the economics of such a venture justify it, then, naturally, the Government will begin to think seriously about further extensions of the Railway.

Everyone of us would like to see the railway pass through his area. The railway does not pass through my area and I would like it to do so, but that is not sufficient reason for me to ask as the Minister of Transport that the railway be extended to pass through Owerri just because I happen to come from there. I think that the overall interest of the Nigerian economy must be the deciding factor.

Mr Chairman has already ruled that road accidents are a matter for the Police and the Ministry of Works and Surveys.

And so I will now, turn to the question of the chairmanship of the Nigerian Railway Corporation. I would like to say that the Chairman of the Nigerian Railway Corporation, like other chairmen of the various statutory corporations, works on a part-time basis. That is the pattern at the moment. It may well be that in the future Government will give consideration to making some of these chairmen to work on full-time basis, as I said in my speech. As a matter of fact, the Chairman of the Railway Corporation is now working full-time but he can only get part-time pay. As time goes on I think the whole matter will have to be reviewed.

I agree also that there is merit in appointing some people to the Boards of the various statutory bodies who have got professional qualifications or some special qualifications relating to the particular corporation or statutory body. That point will definitely be taken into account in the future. In fact, it is a matter of policy that that should be considered in due course. Some of the appointments are made on the recommendation of the Governor-in-Council of the various Regions.

That is one other aspect of our laws which I think will have to be reviewed in due course; for at one time, when the leaders of the political parties were all in the Regions, the tendency

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was for greater emphasis than necessary to be put on the powers of the Regions. Now that the country has become independent, I think it is time that the whole policy should be reviewed so that the Federal Government and the Federal Parliament should have full responsibility for all the corporations which they establish. (*Hear, hear*).

Now, the Bornu railway extension contracts. I would like to say that the contracts have been awarded on the advice of consultants who are fully qualified firms of engineers. We are not aware of any waste, but to make assurances doubly sure a study group of engineers is going up to the extension and looking into the question of costs, and of how the money is being spent, because we are very anxious that there should be no wastage at all. So far, I am informed that of the £20.5 million allocated for the extension only £7.4 million has been expended, so that the money has not all been spent so far.

Two hon. Members spoke about the training of pilots, and would like pilots to be turned out like hot loaves from the oven. But I am quite sure that many of us would not like pilots who have had only twelve to eighteen months' experience to fly the aeroplanes in which they travel. (*Hear, hear*). It is one of those things that you cannot force. The Flying School, incidentally, is to be situated at Apapa, new buildings are being put up and a runway is being prepared. Temporarily, the Flying School is housed in Ikeja and there are about twenty Nigerians there, not three or four as someone mentioned, who have been taken in and are doing what is called the *ab initio* training to prove their aptitude.

Those who have the necessary aptitude for flying will continue, while those who have not will be absorbed in the Civil Aviation Division of the Ministry. After that then they will pursue more serious training and some of them will be sent overseas for training. It takes quite a few years for people to qualify as pilots, and even when they qualify as pilots they can only fly as Second or Third Pilot. It will be some years before they can become Captain and be fully responsible for these big aircraft that fly between here and Europe and other parts of the world. I am quite sure that hon. Members will endorse such a system. (*Hear, hear*).

But, Sir, I would like to clear one more point about these pilots. These student-pilots are being paid £14-10s per month and when they complete their initial training it is proposed that they will join the technical grades and their salaries will then be those of technical officers.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I have nearly disposed of the points that have been raised, but there is one more point. I want to assure Mr Onwuchekwa that Port Harcourt is regarded as a very important airport and that the facilities there are being improved steadily.

There is one more point that I want to clear, and that is the question of an increase of freight rates, not by the Nigerian Shipping line which is just one shipping line, but by the West African Lines Conference. The American Lines have also given notice. It is not giving out a secret, as Members have already known that two months, in fact, three months' notice has been given. I am informed that the increase is due to the general rise in the cost of operating the ships and the general increase in wages at either end. Ten per cent is what is proposed.

That is a matter really for the various lines that form the Conference. And these things have got to do with various items such as oil, that is fuel, for operating the ships, and wages and other various items. We will just watch and see how the shipping lines and the exporters and importers will be able to take the new rates.

I think these are all the points that have been made. Mr Briggs was talking about the speed of trains, and he said that he did not know whether it was 20 miles per hour. I do not expect him to know because he is more interested in launches and canoes; but I promise him that I will do my best to make sure that the transport system in the creeks, especially in the Degema Division, is improved.

Question put and agreed to.

£920,330 for Head 53—Ministry of Transport and Aviation—agreed to.

HEAD 54.—COASTAL AGENCY

£135,700 for Head 54—Coastal Agency—agreed to.

HEAD 55.—INLAND WATERWAYS

£681,700 for Head 55—*Inland Waterways*—*agreed to.*

HEAD 56.—MINISTRY OF WORKS AND SURVEYS

Question proposed, That £5,835,250 for Head 56—Ministry of Works and Surveys—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): Mr Chairman, Sir, under this Ministry of Works and Surveys, Head 56, I rise as one of those who have been benefiting from the Ministry of Works' extensive road building which is going on now, to say "Thank you" to the Ministry of Works and Surveys. There is no doubt that those Members who come from parts of the Mid-West and the Eastern Region will soon realise that a distance of 121 miles will be cut off if the new Ijebu-Ode-Benin road is fully completed.

The advice which I think is necessary to be given to the Minister is that the portion of the road where construction is going on at present is the only item for him to note. During the rainy season there is no doubt that transport in that part of the area will be impeded. Therefore, if a little bit of attention is paid to that particular section of the work going on there, I think the rainy season will have not much effect on our transport. A number of bridges between Ikenne and Ijebu-Ode have been broken to pieces and the road is a little bit diverted and this place is very marshy. I am just considering the amount of water which will be absorbed by the river when the rainy season is in full swing. If the Minister will make this one of those points that he will jot down for the contractors working there to attend to then we will be very happy.

There is the other section of his Ministry which is *Surveys*. There is no doubt that a lot of survey is going on in Nigeria to-day, and as we have many surveyors who have been trained overseas and in Nigeria, it will be necessary for the Minister of Works and Surveys to pay attention to Nigerian surveyors who have worked under the governments and are now practising on their own. They are the people who know the country more than the expatriate surveyors who are brought to this country to survey for the Ministry of Works and Surveys.

Sir, I know that there is need for our surveyors to get together and form a company so that if there is any big project in the Ministry of Surveys they will be called as a group of people, not as individuals, and this work of survey which is going on extensive grounds in Nigeria to-day will be given to them if they deserve it.

As I said before, the Minister of Works deserves much praise and these are the two things that I find in his Ministry. If there is any more, as time goes on, he will be told, for he has always been one of those Ministers who make themselves available for constructive criticisms.

Sir, on behalf of people of Ijebu, I thank the Minister of Works for the good work that is going on.

An hon. Member: Why do you thank him? They pay their taxes!

Mr Odulana: We need to thank him because over £1 million is being spent on that road to join Ijebu-Ode to Benin City, and if we want more we should thank him. That is the reason why I should thank him. Last year before this project started, I did not say this, but now that the work is going on I think it is necessary to thank the Minister. Sir, without wasting any time, I thank the Minister of Works.

M. Haruna Wakilin Daji (Daura West): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the expenditure under the Ministry of Works and Surveys. In doing so, I should like first of all to express my gratitude to the Minister of Works and to his Ministry as a whole for the road improvement which has been achieved during the past few years.

We are also very pleased to hear the good news about the proposal of tarring the road from Daura to Tajina, but in view of the great need of road development in this country I should like the Minister to carry out the tarring work starting at two points, that is from the northern end at Daura towards Kano and also from Kano to Zaria because these sections are already waiting for bituminous surfacing. I mean, Sir, they are already on the waiting list for bituminous surfacing.

Mr Chairman, Sir, although I am not an engineer I feel that the section from Kaduna to Tajina will need some improvement before laying Bituminous surface.

Mr Chairman, Sir, we all know that the Government is doing its best to improve our roads. But still there is noise from all sides of the House. The Minister can therefore realise that there is still a great need for road development in this country. Some people think that they are only neglected and some think that the speed of carrying out the work is too slow. But it is not really so. The need is really so great but unfortunately the road development scheme was started very late in this country. I believe that in order to meet the road development requirements of the country as a whole the Federal Government may have to reconsider the matter so as to accelerate the scheme of road works in this country.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr A. Opia (Aboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I intend to make one or two observations in respect of our roads. Last time the Minister of Works told us that arrangements were in hand with the Regional Governments in respect of taking over some of the roads. I feel, Sir, that it would be a nice thing to mention that we have a lot of road accidents due to some carelessness in the maintenance of roads. One of the root causes is that sometimes you have overgrown grasses especially at corner turning with the result that you can hardly see, when going ahead somebody coming in the opposite direction. I feel, Sir, that stress must be made on this particular point so that there should be regular cutting of grasses. Grasses should not be allowed to overgrow the turning points on our roads.

Another thing, Sir, is sometimes you find undulating steep roads and as you descend you cannot even see somebody coming in the opposite direction. I feel that it is high time the Minister of Works looked into some of these complaints to see whether it is possible to level up some of these steep roads that in most cases cause accidents.

There is also another point which I would like the Minister of Works to take note of. Sometimes you find that trees grow so very close to our roads and perhaps by the time

you are trying to give way to another car coming in the opposite direction, or perhaps another car wants to overtake you, you find that you crash against a tree and your car is in a damaged condition by the time you get out of it. So, Sir, I feel that something must be done specifically to some of this careless maintenance of our roads.

I have in mind, Sir, the road leading from Agbor to Sapele. That road, as I have said previously, belongs to the Action Group Government. But I must have to stress that this road is very important. It is a feeder road, and as long as that road belongs to the Western Government you never can have it properly tarred except you belong to the Action Group. I am saying this from my own experience. Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like the Minister of Works to take into particular cognisance this road leading from Agbor to Warri. It is a feeder road and I feel that the road is overdue for the Federal Government to take over.

I have also in view the road between Onitsha, Owerri and Port Harcourt. It is a very important road. Sir, this road is also a feeder road. Most transport drivers prefer to use this road rather than the Federal road leading from Owerri to Aba. I feel that the Government should take note of this road also. Time is overdue when this road should be taken over by Government.

Finally, Sir, you find that some of our roads are very rough. The cable, or whatever they use, (I don't know really), is too rough. It is high time we began to use something which is being used in Lagos. It is not only in Lagos that we should find good roads. We see good roads only in Lagos but when we get out of Lagos we begin to find bad ones. We feel the time has come when Government should look into some of these things. We feel that more attention to roads is given to Lagos and that when you leave this capital city you find that you are running on rough roads.

Even though they are macadamised, your tyre soon runs out in a very short time. I feel, Sir, that the Minister of Works should take cognisance of these few points.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am one of those people who, because of the nature of their profession,

[MR AKINJIDE]

do a lot of touring. I know the good work the Ministry of Works is doing to improve our Trunk "A" roads. It is all right to criticise the Government; we want roads here, we want roads there, but they all need money. It is not easy at all. If you compare the achievements of the present Government within a period of seven or eight years with the achievements of the colonial government for almost 50 years you find that what the Government has done for us within this decade quadruples what the colonial government did for us in 50 or 60 years. So if we criticise the Government we should know the way we do it.

Another matter which I would like to touch on is the question of the Regional Governments being agents of the Federal Government in respect of the trunk roads A in their respective Regions. There are arguments for and arguments against this agency business. I think that the Federal Government should establish tender boards in each Region which will give out contracts to people who will either mend or tar the roads or mend the bridges.

In the Western Region, although these roads are Federal roads and maintained from Federal funds, unless one is a member of the Action Group, one cannot get the contract in respect of the Federal roads. Some of the bridges between Ijebu-Ode and Ibadan are being repaired now. The Minister will see that some of these bridges are being done in the crudest form possible. Some of the contracts are being given to people who have never handled contracts in their life, their only qualification being that they are members of the Action Group. The Minister should look into this and establish tender boards so that the people can be saved from political persecution in Federal matters in which we are interested.

Mr T. I. Etukudo (Eket West): Mr Deputy Chairman, Sir, before I proceed further I should like to seize this opportunity to thank the Federal Government and the Minister of Works for the negotiations with the Regional Governments to take over some of the trunk roads B. I hope that as soon as arrangements are finalised, by 1962 work should be started on some of these roads.

I am fully convinced that the Eastern Government will recommend one of our roads, the Eket-Oron road. It is a very important road. It is the only road which links Eket with other outlying towns. The delay by the N.C.N.C. government of the Eastern Region in tarring this road has actually become a thorn in our flesh. We are tired of the N.C.N.C. Government of the Eastern Region for refusing to give us amenities. In spite of the fact that a series of plans have been made to tar that road, it has never been tarred.

Much has been said about the narrowness of the trunk roads A and the poor condition of the bridges. It will be a waste of time for me to repeat it, but I just want to add one or two things more. Hon. Opia has already made mention of the dark corners which we experience when coming to Lagos; it is not possible to sight another vehicle from a distance. The Minister of Works should take note of that too.

From Benin to Asaba one finds a lot of mango and other trees standing near the road. As we are getting into the rainy season, it is quite possible that the slightest thing can make one's car to crash into a tree. Therefore some of those trees should be hewn down.

Coming to the question of Nigerianisation in this Ministry, I remember that last time when the Minister of Works was making his speech, he made mention of Nigerianisation as being slow in this Ministry. Since that is the case, I suggest that urgent attention should be paid to some of the schemes for training Nigerians. I feel that the employment of expatriates in the civil service of this country is almost a liability because of the fat salaries, inducement allowances and this lump sum compensation of £9,000 to each on retirement. The country is in need of money now for some capital development works.

I feel a bit perplexed because I see too many temporary staff in his Ministry. I should like to call upon the Minister to give some explanation to this. On page 232 one sees "Temporary staff—one Principal Accountant". On page 233 too so many are listed as temporary staff. I think it is rather expensive to retain the services of temporary staff. It is high time that permanent staff should replace these temporary staff.

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Further on, Sir, I seem to see that the Southern Cameroons which has seceded from Nigeria, still has a section here which—(The hon. Member began to look through the pages of the Estimates.)

An hon. Member : Say something else if you cannot find it.

The Deputy Chairman : Order, order. While the hon. Member continues his research, (Laughter) I think it should be noted that we must leave some time for the Minister to reply. We only have about eight minutes more.

Mr Etukudo : Lastly, I should say that this money should be converted into some other use rather than still attaching ourselves to the Southern Cameroons.

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

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) : Mr Deputy Chairman, Sir, I want to start by thanking hon. Members for the kind words that they have expressed for my Ministry. It is very encouraging, for a change, that the Ministry of Works is now praised instead of criticised as used to be the case sometime ago.

Hon. Members have made certain comments which require some explanation. I want to start with my good Friend, Mr Odulana, who spoke on the reconstruction of the road between Shagamu and Ijebu-Ode to Benin. I am sorry, I cannot relieve my hon. Friend in that reconstruction work must go on if bridges and roads must be in a good motorable condition. A new bridge cannot be built and an old bridge cannot be reconstructed without doing some damage to parts of the road. But I want to assure hon. Members that contractors have been instructed to do all they can to cause as little inconvenience to traffic as possible.

Mr Odulana also spoke about surveyors. I am afraid, he is not quite conversant with the facts. Our need is to get more and more Nigerian surveyors. We are doing all we can to attract them into the Department. You will notice in the Current Estimates that the entry point for the salaries of Surveyors has been enhanced and by that we hope to encourage them. The question of asking Nigerian Surveyors to undertake large surveys is simply

impossible. The modern method of surveying large areas is by aerial photograph. I am sure my hon. Friend will agree that no Nigerian Surveyor has got the facilities.

My hon. Friend, Mallam Haruna Wakilin Daji, spoke of the reconstruction of Trunk Road A. 1. I want to assure him that the contractors are starting work on these roads from three points: from Dambata northwards towards Daura; from Kano towards Zaria and from Kaduna to Tegna.

Mr Opia spoke of road accidents due to lack of good road maintenance. While this may be so, Sir, I think many people are agreed that the cause of most road accidents in Nigeria is carelessness on the part of drivers. However, I want to assure him that my Ministry and the Regional Ministries of Works are doing all we can to maintain our roads in good condition and to remove any obstruction that there is on the roads. Any tree by the side of a road which is considered dangerous is being cut. Then he spoke of his favourite road, Agbor to Warri, which is a Regional road, and I need not say anything on that.

Mr Akinjide spoke about something which is not very easy to be met—of establishing Tenders Boards in each of the Regions and for the Tenders Board so established to be responsible for giving out works and the maintenance of roads, etc., in the Region. I think my hon. Friend has forgotten that there is a Federal Tenders Board which looks after all contract works in the Regions.

(Mr Chairman in the Chair)

I think, Sir, that there is only one point which I want to explain, made by my hon. Friend, Mr Etukudo. He has observed that there is a small vote for the Southern Cameroons in the Estimates. If my hon. Friend notes carefully, he will observe the letters "r.i.e." against the vote. That is, not a penny can be spent now without authority. r.i.e. means "Reserved Authority to Incur Expenditure", and now that the Southern Cameroons is no longer a part of Nigeria I want to assure you that we are not going to spend any money there.

£5,835,250 for Head 56—Ministry of Works and Surveys—agreed to.

Then the Chairman left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress—to sit again tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East): Mr Speaker, Sir, on this Motion of Adjournment I wish to draw the attention of the Minister of Works and Surveys to the—*(Interruptions)*.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. I understand the hon. Member has not got the consent of the Minister to raise the question to-day.

Mr A. Opia (Abor): Mr Speaker, Sir, I feel, as a matter of great urgency, that the Minister of Transport and Aviation owes this Parliament an explanation for the recent ferry accident in the mid-stream, involving a loss of life, thirteen fatal accidents and collision of lorries and cars and why up till now, Sir, the ferry services are constantly interrupted with frequent breakdowns, thereby making waiting hours unbearably unpleasant for tourists. I learned also that the Minister intends to open up night ferries between Asaba and Onitsha to alleviate sufferings encountered by tourists who have to queue up for long waiting hours.

The Minister of Transport (The hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am afraid that the hon. Member has not got all his facts correct. He spoke of loss of life and he spoke again of thirteen or fourteen fatal accidents. I do not understand what that means, but it has been brought to my notice that there was a collision by one of the ferries on the Asaba-Onitsha crossing recently and that two people were injured.

I am aware—although investigations are still going on and my Ministry is still in touch with the Onitsha Branch of the Inland Waterways Department—that there has been no loss of life. I was very sorry to hear of the accident. This is very rare indeed, because, as Members already know, the ferry service is carried out between these two important towns

with the greatest care and for many years I have never heard of any accident to any of the ferries in the service.

As regards night ferry service, there has been flood lighting on the Onitsha side and arrangements were being made on the Asaba side so that the possibility of operating the ferry service during the hours of darkness might be further explored. Well, that will entail more staff and, perhaps, also more ferries.

At the moment, one of the ferries is out of operation and the second one met with an accident, to which the hon. Member has referred, so that in the meantime, I cannot give any undertaking that it will be safe or wise to start any service during the hours of darkness. All that I can say is that I will do my best to see that the two ferries go back to service as soon as possible. *(Applause)*.

Mr F. U. Ihe (Okigwi North East): Mr Speaker, Sir, the subject matter I want to raise now is about the Postal Agency at Otankpa. Last year, on the Floor of this House, I was given the answer that the volume of business there was 13,062 units, but it has been discovered, Sir, that since 1958 the volume of business there has been enough to warrant conversion into a Sub-Post Office. I have a letter to that effect confirming that Otankpa has long been due for conversion. This letter, Mr Speaker, is from the Territorial Headquarters, P. and T., Enugu, and was addressed to the Secretary, Okigwe Northern Council. I shall read it, with your permission, Sir. "Upgrading of Postal Agencies. I am forwarding you a copy of a memorandum relating to a general scheme under which the bursar's Postal Agency can now be considered for conversion to Sub-Post Office status. The units of work at Otankpa Agency are now sufficient to bring that Office within the scope of this scheme, and your District Council will no doubt give the matter their consideration and notify this headquarters, in due course, of the results." Signed by the Higher Executive Officer (Staff and Buildings) for Territorial Controller and copied to the Administrative Officer in charge of Okigwi.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the volume of business at the Agency has since 1958 increased, and one would wonder why there should at all be any decrease to the units (being 13,062).

I sincerely ask therefore whether the Minister responsible would not confirm the information from the Territorial Headquarters as being very authentic, and allow the Agency to operate a Sub-Post Office. Moreover, I would like the Minister of Communications to know that the local people owning the Agency have collected money to build the Post Office, and I hope that the Minister responsible will actually come to the aid of my people by allowing this Postal Agency to be converted into a Sub-Post Office.

The Minister of Communications (hon. Olu Akinfosile): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very much in sympathy with my hon. Friend on *that* Side. I think, Sir, that—

An hon. Member : On *your* Side.

The Minister of Communications : On *my* Side. I think the responsibility for the situation lies squarely with the District Council. The moment they take necessary steps by appointing the officer which they want to be trained and get in contact with our Eastern Region Headquarters, I think that their difficulties will be looked into.

FACILITIES FOR HON. MEMBERS TO VISIT
IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
AND INDUSTRIES

Mr S. O. Kolade (Oyo South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to give some advice on this point that arrangements be made by the Minister of Transport and Aviation whereby Members may be able to visit the Lagos Aerodrome, other important Federal Aerodromes, Apapa Wharf, and some other industrial concerns of the Federal Government when the Federal House is meeting, so that Members will be able to see for themselves and receive first-hand information on the various Government Development Plans.

Now, the reason is this. Before the Committee of Supply, I think, it would be a nice thing if we made arrangements in this House whereby Members of the various Parties would go to some places to see for themselves and receive first hand information on some of the things we would like to debate here. For example, before coming to the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, if we have a bus, some Members on the Government and

Opposition Benches may go there and see the aerodromes, go round there, talk to the people there, see some of the aircraft landing, enter some of them, speak to the people inside, and so by getting some of the information when they come back they will be able to give the Minister of Transport and Aviation concrete and useful advice instead of basing their points on what they hear people say, or on the things they read.

The same thing is true with the ocean steamers. Arrangements should be made whereby some Members of the Federal House will be able to go to the Wharf and see the ocean steamers, and see some of the things that are being made locally at Apapa, so that when they come to speak here they will be able to give first-hand information which they have personally gathered, and that will help the Minister in charge.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I realise that there are some difficulties which may arise, more especially two major difficulties—transport and the absence of Members from the House during the tours or excursions, but I have got solutions to them. With reference to transportation, so many Members have got their cars, and I think if arrangements are made they could easily go together and then see some of these things. That will minimise some expenses. (*Interruption*).

I think with reference to the idea that it will take Members away from the House, arrangements may be made say between one o'clock to three o'clock when the House is in recess for Members to go there.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Speaker, Sir, in the absence of the Leader of the House I would like to say that the suggestions which the hon. Member has made are very welcome. I think it would be a very good thing indeed if Members are given the opportunity of getting better information about so many things they consider during the Meeting of this House. When this House meets the various Parliamentary Parties should get together and draw out a list of what Members or any group of Members would like to see. These should be presented to the Ministers, and then these Ministers will have to arrange, because it seems to me that this may affect the sitting of

[MINISTER OF TRANSPORT]

the House, that time be provided for these tours or excursions to be made. And then various Ministers who are responsible will make the necessary arrangements with the various bodies, like the Ports Authority, Railways, Airways, P.W.D., and so on.

I want to assure the hon. Member and the entire House that the Government would be very willing to consider any such proposal. (*Hear, hear*).

THE ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR OF METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE IN RELATION TO NIGERIANISATION

Mr B. N. Ukaegbu (Owerri South East): Mr Speaker, Sir, the thing I want to raise is about an alleged act of sabotage on the principle of Nigerianisation in the Meteorological Service. Here, Sir, one congratulating the Minister of Establishments and Service Matters on the vigorous ways he is carrying out the Nigerianisation policy would regret that in the Meteorological Service the Director, who is known to be a negrophobist, took away, when he was a Deputy Director, eight European officers, who were under him then, when he became the Director. I mean that when he was a Director and an African was made a Deputy Director he took away these eight European officers who are to be under the Deputy Director and put them directly under himself as Director, and the African, who was made the Deputy Director, has no job at all, and all he has left in his office is the Accounts Section, and so on.

I think the Minister will see that such a man is sacked.

The Minister of Establishments and Service Matters (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari): It is alleged that when a Nigerian was appointed the Deputy Director some of the duties which were performed by the former Deputy Director, and overseas officer,

were taken over by the Director and that the Nigerian was left to discharge duties which do not appear to be commensurate with his appointment. It has been suggested that this is contrary to the policy of Nigerianisation. The Nigerian in question is Mr N. A. Akin-gbehin who was promoted as Deputy Director with effect from the 8th of March, 1961.

It is a fact that after the promotion of the Nigerian the Director made certain internal re-arrangements of duties between himself and the Deputy Director. The primary object of these re-arrangements was to Nigerianise to the maximum extent possible the control and operation of the machinery of the department and these, in fact, represent a major step forward in Nigerianisation. In effect, the Division was divided into three main sections, namely the Research and Investigation Section, the Technical Section and the Administrative Section. The Director assumed charge of the Research and Investigation Section. The other two sections which in effect comprise the complete operational arm of the Service, were placed under the control of the Deputy Director, a Nigerian officer.

I am therefore satisfied that the allegation is without any foundation. However, I share the anxiety of the hon. Member that while we press for Nigerianisation of the Public Service we should ensure that Nigerians who are appointed or promoted to key posts do actually discharge the functions and responsibilities commensurate with those posts. And I assure my hon. Friend that any attempt to make our Nigerianisation policy a mockery should never be tolerated.

And it being 6 p.m., Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 4 (7).

Adjourned at six o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Thursday, 20th April, 1961

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

Mr Speaker : The following paper already distributed to Members is deemed to have been laid on the Table :—

Central Bank of Nigeria—Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the period ended 31st December, 1960.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Motor Accidents

O.154. Mr O. J. Eminue asked the Prime Minister, how many motor accidents occurred on the Uya-Oron Bridge on the Aba-Oron Trunk Road A during 1958, 1959 and 1960 respectively ; and how many people died as a result of these accidents in each of those years.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : No motor accident occurred on the Uya-Oron Bridge in 1958 and 1959. In 1960, there were two accidents involving two persons injured.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : Is the Prime Minister aware of the alarming increase of accidents in this country, and, if so, what is he trying to do about it ?

The Prime Minister : I am aware, Sir, and the Regional Governments and the Government of the Federation have appointed committees which would look into these things. I want the hon. Member to appreciate that the more vehicles we have the more accidents we shall continue to have, but we shall try to do our best to check these accidents.

Oron Police

O.155. Mr O. J. Eminue asked the Prime Minister, if Government will consider a proposal to expand the Police detachment at Oron and to post a Police Inspector there, in view of the rapid expansion of Oron Urban Town and in view of the mounting crime wave there.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : The present establishment of the Police at Oron is considered adequate. As soon as funds become available to provide additional quarters in this station, consideration will be given to the posting there of a Sub-Inspector.

Mr A. S. Odulana (Ijebu South) : We would advise the Prime Minister that the Department of Police should stop bringing expatriate A.S.P.'s to the Police post there.

The Prime Minister : That is not a question, Sir ; I think, it is a statement.

Expatriate Police Officers

O.158. Mr D. N. Abii asked the Prime Minister, how many expatriate officers are on routine duties, such as traffic inspection, in the Nigeria Police Force ; and why their posts have not been Nigerianised.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : There are 30 permanent and 22 contract expatriate Police Officers on routine duties. Of these figures, only 5 are on traffic inspection duties. The posts of these officers have not been Nigerianised because suitably qualified Nigerians are not available in sufficient number to fill them. In filling these posts whenever they become vacant, preferential consideration will normally be given to suitable qualified Nigerian candidates as and when available.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : Will the Prime Minister tell us what special qualities are needed to become a Traffic Inspector on the road ?

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : Is the Prime Minister aware that many of these imported expatriates are no better than the local materials we have.

The Prime Minister : I am not aware.

Lorry Trailers

O.159. M. Alli Gwarzo asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider prohibiting lorry-owners from using trailers in view of serious road accidents largely due to the use of trailers.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : No, Sir. The number of accidents involving lorries drawing trailers is comparatively negligible. Of 13,318 accidents, recorded in 1960, only 27 were due to lorries drawing trailers. There would be no justification for imposing any prohibition on the use of trailers.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : Would the Prime Minister consider making it a traffic offence for lorries carrying heavy goods to carry also passengers along with it, because it has caused very many deaths when lorries have crashed and goods have fallen on the passengers and smashed all of them.

The Prime Minister : This is already provided in our traffic regulations, and I hope when the hon. Member sees that this thing happens he should bring this to the notice of the Police.

Police Wireless Division

O.160. Dr Kalu Ezera asked the Prime Minister, how many Nigerians in the Wireless Communications Section of the Nigeria Police Force have been sent on overseas courses during the last four years ; if he will state how many of them have been promoted and to what ranks, giving years of such promotion and what, in general, is the future of Nigeria Policemen in this section of the Force.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : There is only one Nigerian Officer in the Signals Branch of the Nigeria Police who has had training in the United Kingdom. This Officer was appointed Assistant Superintendent in 1958 on joining the Police Force. A Signals School has recently been established at the Southern Police College, Ikeja. As the calibre of candidates appointed to this Branch improves, it should be possible to accelerate the training of officers for higher responsibility.

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : Would the Prime Minister assure the House, Sir, that the Nigerians serving in this section of the Police are properly looked after so that they may not consider the section as a dumping ground.

The Prime Minister : Sir, I assure the House, please.

Police Security Branch

O.161. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Prime Minister, how many expatriate and Nigerian officers respectively there are in the Security Section of the Nigeria Police.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : If I were to state the figures I would be giving away the total strength of an important section of our Security Service, and that would not be in Nigeria's best interests. But I can say that if there are expatriates in the Section the large majority of them are on short term contracts.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : Is the Prime Minister aware that this section is almost 90 per cent manned by expatriate officers ?

The Prime Minister : I am not aware of that, and I will not give away the number in that Section as I have indicated in my reply to the question.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : Is the Prime Minister aware that even having one expatriate in this section that the security of this country will be in jeopardy in view of the fact that it is only natural that a man should put his own national interest first ?

The Prime Minister : I am very sorry to know that the hon. Member thinks as he does.

Mr A. U. D. Mba (Owerri North) : What facilities are provided for the training of these Nigerians so that within a very short time they can take over this responsible post in the Security Service ?

The Prime Minister : Sir, we are doing everything possible to see that in all these divisions we have Nigerians.

Nigerianisation of the Security Unit

O.162. Dr K. Ezera asked the Prime Minister, whether he is aware that our Security Branch is almost wholly top-manned by expatriates ; whether he proposes to Nigerianise this important section of our National Security Unit ; and how soon he intends to do so.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : If the hon. Member refers to the Special Branch of the Nigeria Police the answer is that Nigerianisation started in 1957 and is proceeding satisfactorily.

Police Uniforms

O.163. Dr K. Ezera asked the Prime Minister, whether he does not consider that the present woollen Police Uniforms are most uncomfortable for tropical wear as well as being undignified for use in an independent country such as ours.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : No, Sir. The present uniforms of the Nigeria Police were approved by the Nigeria Police Council after the most careful consideration. I am advised that the silver-grey woollen shirt is not uncomfortable. It has many advantages over the khaki drill tunic which it replaced. The uniforms are popular among the members of the Force and are not considered undignified in an independent Nigeria.

Dr K. Ezera : Will the Prime Minister please tell us again whether this Police Council which he referred to is in fact representative of the opinions of the rank and file of the Police Force ?

Strength of Police Unit

O.244. Mr D. O. Ahamefule asked the Prime Minister if he is aware that the strength of the Police Unit in Umulemmai in Okigwi Division is insufficient to cope with the work there ; and whether he has plans to increase it.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : Yes, Sir. The strength of the Police Unit will be increased when staff become available.

Transport for Police Post

O.245. Mr D. O. Ahamefule asked the Prime Minister whether he is aware of the transport difficulties confronting the Police Station at Emuelemmai in Okigwi Division, and whether, in view of the increased crime wave there and the distance between it and Okigwi and Umuahia Stations, he will consider the advisability of providing the Unit with transport.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : No, Sir. Umuelemmai is a new Police Post of only 12 men. It is on the main Umuahi—Okigwi road and public transport is available in emergencies. It is not yet considered necessary for the station to be supplied with its own transport.

Prime Minister's Tour

***O.246. Mr D. O. Ahamefule** asked the Prime Minister, who was responsible for planning his recent tour of the Eastern Region ; and why Okigwi Division was excluded.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : The Prime Minister's tour of the Eastern Region was planned by the Eastern Regional Government. It was not physically possible for the Prime Minister to visit every Division in the Eastern Region in the time available but the Prime Minister looks forward to visiting Okigwi Division on his next tour of the Eastern Region.

Expansion of Police Force

***O.247. Mr J. U. Odey** asked the Prime Minister, what expansion in the Police Services is being envisaged for Ogoja as a provincial headquarters.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : Three new formations have been created at Effium, Nwofe and Ndubia ; further expansion will be made when the staff become available.

Eastern Nigeria Border

***O.248. Mr J. U. Odey** asked the Prime Minister, what safeguards against border incidents are being provided at the border of Nigeria and the Southern Cameroons since that territory decided to join the Kameroun Republic.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : Police posts have been established at strategic points along the Eastern Nigeria border to maintain peace and security in the area.

Dr Okeke : Is the Prime Minister aware of the attack of the bandits from Kameroun

Republic on an innocent village in the Northern Region where one person was killed and twenty-five others wounded and if he is aware, what has he planned to do about it?

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I read in the paper of this attack on villages in the Northern Region. It is a pity, but these things come to light very often in these days, but in the past they happened constantly, cattle raiders, raiding Nigerian Territory. I want to assure the House that we are taking every precaution to protect the Nigerian border and Nigerian people from people from the other Territories in our neighbourhood.

Chief Olugbade: The hon. Prime Minister said he read in the newspaper and said there had been cases like that, but did he cause any investigation to be made in respect of that particular incident?

Police Station at Omoku

*O.250. **Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Prime Minister, whether he will consider establishing a Police Post at Ogba-Egbema County Council in Omoku and at Abua.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister: The need for a Police Station at Omoku to control the Egbema and Ogba clan areas in Ahoada Division has been recognised. Steps will be taken in that direction when the staff becomes available.

Mr Abii: Will not the Parliamentary Secretary tell this House when it will be possible to employ more people in the Police to raise the position of the officers to give them chance in these places?

Nigerian Troops in the Congo

*O.251. **Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Prime Minister whether it will not be in the best interest of the nation to recall the Nigerian troops now serving in the Congo, in view of the sad events which led to the murder of Patrice Lumumba, the first Prime Minister of the Central Congolese Government.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister: As the Prime Minister already explained fully during the debate on the Motion about United Nations Congo operations

it is the view of this Government that it would be ill-advised to withdraw Nigerian Troops now serving in the Congo.

Dr Ezera: Mr Speaker, Sir, in view of the very fine work done by our Nigerian Police in the Congo, would the Prime Minister not consider it advisable to recall the Expatriate Officers who are leading us and creating a very bad impression that this country is still being run by expatriates.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not know what the hon. Member means by what he says. We have got many Nigerian Officers serving with our troops in the Congo and a Nigerian Lieutenant-Colonel in charge of one of our battalions and in the other battalions, we also got Nigerian Officers. As far as I know, Sir, they are working harmoniously together and that is the more reason why our troops in the Congo have given a very good account of themselves. I do not like these impressions to be created by people who know almost practically nothing about the situation there to be making these wild statements.

Cars Registered

*O.252. **Dr B. U. Nzeribe** asked the Prime Minister how many cars were registered in Nigeria last year; how many of these were of British, French and American manufacture respectively; and how much did Government realise in respect of their registration.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister: 11,822 cars were registered in 1960. Of this figure, 4,806 were of British manufacture, 1,746 French and 1,113 American. The revenue to Government from these registrations was £2,955-10s-0d.

Dr Nzeribe: Will the Government consider the possibility of raising the fees for American cars and some British cars in view of the fact that these are luxuries for Nigeria at this moment?

Expenses of Nigerian Contingent in Congo

*O.253. **Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Prime Minister who is paying the expenses of the Nigerian Contingent sent to the Congo.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : The expenses of the Nigerian Contingent serving with the United Nations Forces in the Congo will be paid by the United Nations Organization.

Inspector for Agwu Police Station

O.256. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Prime Minister whether he will now consider increasing the strength of the police detachment at Agwu by posting an Inspector there to command the detachment.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : The need to post an Inspector to Agwu Police Station has been recognised and this will be done as soon as one becomes available.

Vehicle Licences

***O.257. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Prime Minister if he will state the number of vehicle licences issued in Nigeria to cars and lorries respectively each year from 1st April, 1957 to 31st March, 1960.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : With your permission, Sir, the details will be included in the Report for to-day :—

Period	Cars	Lorries
1-4-57-31-12-57	5,697	5,928
1-1-58-31-12-58	28,593	24,561
1-1-59-31-12-59	32,758	25,401
1-1-60-31-3-60	5,548	4,065
	<u>72,596</u>	<u>59,955</u>

African High Command

O.164. Mr B. N. Ukegbu asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs whether Nigeria was invited to join the African High Command proposed by the President of the Ghana Republic ; and, if so, what was the attitude of the Government.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : Nigeria was not invited initially to join the proposed African High Command. At a later stage, about five weeks after the original proposal had been announced to the World, with the conspicuous absence of Nigeria's name from the list of countries invited, a message was received from Ghana Government asking us to join. The main

purpose of the proposed High Command appeared to be the establishment of a joint African Military Force for use in the Congo and in similar situations on the African Continent.

This Government replied that the difficulties of the Congo required a political not military solution and that the United Nations Organisation to whose efforts in the Congo Nigeria was already contributing fully appeared to be in the best position to bring effective and a most acceptable help to the Congo.

Mr Ukegbu : Does the Government know that some sort of military co-operation on the African Continent is a desideratum ?

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Sir, this question of the African High Command was discussed by me with the originator of the idea in London last March and when he mentioned it to me I said 'yes but who would foot the bill' and the gentleman said the United Nations.

Sir, I believe in the African countries co-operating with one another and I think there is quite a lot to be said in making joint efforts as far as the defence of our territories is concerned. But we cannot just speak lightly on this very, very important matter in the way the matter was discussed. Nor do I believe that hon. Members here will agree for any individual outside this country to announce that he committed Nigeria to join in anything which Nigeria knows nothing about.

Relationship with other African States

***O.165. M. Yushau A. Mohammed** asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, what steps he is taking to strengthen our friendly relations with other countries, and with african States in particular.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : It is the declared policy of this Government to foster friendly relations with other countries and especially Africar countries. The Government has, therefore, actively sponsored the establishment of diplomatic relations, cultural and economic co-operation between Nigeria and other countries.

Nigeria has received one State visit from an African Head of State, the President of Senegal, since independence, and many dis-

tinguished guests and goodwill and trade delegations from Asia, the Middle East, African countries, North and South America and Europe. Indeed we have in Nigeria to-day the Chief Minister of Tanganyika, a Government delegation from Dahomey, and a trade mission from Communist China.

We on our part have maintained friendly and close contact with other African countries. Nigeria has already established five diplomatic missions in African countries and will establish more as circumstances permit. We have sent delegations to participate in the Independence Celebrations or Presidential Inauguration Ceremonies of all African countries since we became independent. Last year a goodwill delegation of Members of this Parliament undertook a six weeks visit to West and Central African countries. Plans are in hand for a similar delegation to visit Ethiopia, Sudan and East Africa in the near future.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): May we know whether this Government is interested in economic or political co-operation with other African States because at the moment the situation is confused?

Mr Speaker: That is a new question.

Allocation of Plots

O.167. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, whether a "Northernisation" policy is being applied in the distribution of plots in Lagos—Ikoyi layout.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister: The majority of the plots in the South-West Ikoyi layout were balloted for and the Regions of origin of the successful applicants are not known. In other layouts Northerners have had less than a fair share. No Northerners got plots in the original South-East Ikoyi layout. A Northerner is as much a Nigerian citizen as anyone from the East or West.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East): Is the Minister aware that an official of the L.E.D.B. has seven plots in Ikoyi and Apapa. Three in his own name, two in the name of his son, one in the name of his daughter and one in the name of his wife?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister: If the hon. Member will let the Minister know the name of the officer, necessary action will be taken.

Scholarship Awards

***O.171. Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of Education, how many of the scholarships awarded in 1960-61 were tenable in the United Kingdom, United States of America, United Arab Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Israel, Western Germany and Eastern Germany respectively.

The Minister of Education: Of the Scholarships awarded in 1960-61 under the Federal Scholarships Scheme, 179 were tenable in the United Kingdom, 22 in the United States of America and none in the other countries named. Apart from Federal Scholarships a number of scholarships were awarded to Nigerians by Governments or other organisations to be held in the countries referred to: of these 29 are held in the United Kingdom, 24 in the United States of America, and 6 in Israel.

Mr Ememe: Does the Minister consider it expedient that in view of the fact that the Soviet Union is well advanced in medicine and other scientific fields, Nigeria should award as many scholarships as possible to that country?

Mr Speaker: That is a new question.

Training Facilities in Technical Education

***O.172. Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Minister of Education if he is aware of the facilities for technical education provided by the Shell-BP Petroleum Company Limited at their Umuobiakani Industrial Layout near Port Harcourt; and whether he does not consider it advisable that such training facilities should be adopted in other parts of the country, particularly for the training of primary school leavers as technicians.

The Minister of Education: Yes Sir, I am well aware of the facilities for technical education provided by the Shell-BP Company near Port Harcourt. The technical training given there is of the same type as that already available in the Government Technical Institutes, Trade Centres and Craft Schools throughout the Federation, but it is of a more specialised nature since it is intended to produce technicians and craftsmen for oil exploration work.

In reply to the second part of the question I would observe that primary school leavers are accepted in the various Government Trade Centres and Craft Schools after having passed certain examinations and having gone

through some selection techniques. I do not think it would be suitable to provide specialist technical training for oil exploration work except where oil drilling is taking place.

Mr Akwiwu : Is the Minister aware of the deplorable state of inefficiency in the Yaba Technical Institute ?

Mr Speaker : That is a new question.

Disparity in Emoluments

*O.258. **Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Education whether he is aware of the disparity between the emoluments paid to indigenous and to expatriate members of the staff of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology; and whether he will consider approving uniform rates of pay in order to obviate the discontent among the indigenous section of the staff caused by the present disparity.

The Minister of Education : The basic salary scales of the College are applicable to indigenous and expatriate staff alike. Any disparity in emoluments is based on precisely the same factors which create disparity in the Federal Public Service—for example, the payment of inducement addition to expatriates. The question of approving uniform rates of pay for indigenous and expatriate staff at Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology does not therefore arise since they already exist.

Financial Assistance

*O.259. **Mr K. Giadom** asked the Minister of Education, if Government will consider giving financial assistance to voluntary agency schools in all the regions.

The Minister of Education : The question of the Federal Government giving financial assistance to certain classes of educational activities carried on in schools throughout the Federation, whether owned by Voluntary Agencies or otherwise, has engaged the attention of the Ministry of Education for a considerable length of time. A final decision will, however, have to be awaited.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : I hope this length of time will be so shortened and if the Minister is aware the length of time

is already too lengthy in view of the speed with which we need education here in this country in terms of the Ashby Report. The length must be shortened as the Minister is aware of the delay.

Establishment of Secondary Schools

*O.260. **Dr B. U. Nzeribe** asked the Minister of Education, how many of the proposed inter-regional secondary schools have already been established; and where are these located.

The Minister of Education : No inter-regional Secondary Schools have so far been established outside the Federal territory of Lagos.

Mr Speaker : It is now half past ten and no further questions will be taken. The answers to the remaining questions will be published in to-day's *Hansard*.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to say, with your permission, that I have received the list of the plots mentioned by the hon. Member and have passed it to the Clerk of the Parliaments for further action.

NOTICE OF MOTION

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move "That this House at its rising this day do adjourn *sine die*. (*Loud Applause*).

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

Question proposed.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, we are happy that the House will adjourn *sine die* after the sitting of to-day, but I would like to sound a note of warning that in future we should not be rushed through any Budget Session. The Budget Session is a very, very important Session.

We are aware of the causes, namely, the elections in the Northern Region. We were thinking that this election would be treated in the same way as the Western Regional election. All will agree with me, Sir, that we have been rushed through this important Session which

[MR EKANEM]

is the shortest Session this House has ever had. In future, we do not want anything to be rushed through during the Budget Session. We want to have the time to scrutinise the accounts, see the policy for the future and see how it will help this country. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Abaja and Ngwo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Motion which has been moved by the hon. Minister of Finance, I would like the Ministers to assure us that we can go home comfortably. I am informed, Sir, that the ferry at Onitsha has broken down and at mile 140/6, a bridge has been destroyed. It is, therefore, necessary that the Minister of Works should assure us that we can go home tomorrow morning by road through Akure and that we can cross the River Niger without any difficulty. (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker : That is immaterial to the Motion.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, it used to be the custom of this House that when the House is to adjourn *sine die*, we would be told of the possible date when the House will reassemble. (*Prolonged Applause*).

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to call the attention of the Government to the anomaly practised these days : whenever the Federal House is sitting, one Regional Government will announce a date for elections and that will eventually curtail the sitting of this House. I wish there were definite arrangements or understanding reached between the Federal Government and the Regional Governments not to have this as a practice because some of us who come here, come here to express the opinions of our constituencies, but we have not got the chance to do so. We would like to have that chance.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I also want this House to register its appreciation of the work of the Clerk of the House, but in saying so, I would like the Clerk of the House to give us one month's notice when the House is to reassemble to enable us to get our questions and Motions in order and to forward them in time so that they may appear before we get here.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House at its rising this day do adjourn *sine die*.

APPROPRIATION (1961-62) BILL

(Sixth Allotted Day) ; Considered in Committee of Supply.

House in Committee.

HEAD 57—AUDIT

Question proposed, That £93,690 for Head 57—Audit—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think one should take this opportunity to congratulate the Audit Department for the very tedious work they have got to do and, I must say, they have up till now done remarkably well. It is not unusual, Sir, that where one has to deal with money and accounts, scandals must arise very easily. But I must say that it is to the credit of the Audit Department that up till now there is no scandal whatsoever hanging around that Department.

Having said that, Sir, I would express some opinion about the findings in the Audit Report. It would appear, Sir, that the Audit Department is too much of a *gentleman*. There is apparent hesitation in making categorical pronouncements on irresponsibility for certain short-comings or falings in accounts. In this particular regard. I would refer you, Sir, to the latest Audit Report. There are some findings with respect to losses contained in paragraphs 5, 9, and 10. These findings relate in particular to the destruction of the new Telephone Exchange being constructed at Aba. Here the Audit Department informed us that the contracting firm was working on the Exchange and, having finished, unfortunately the house caught fire and everything in it was destroyed. It says after a lot of enquiries, it was discovered that there was no liaison between the Department of P. and T. and the contracting firm. It goes further to say the terms of the contract exempted the contractors from any such liability.

There must be somebody responsible for such short-comings. If there was no liaison and as a result proper inspections were not conducted, well, it is clear that the Board of P. and T. Department has failed or the man

who drew up the terms of the contract had failed. In fact, it looks funny that one would be so careless on a big job like that as to fail to make sure what are the contractors' liabilities.

As far as we know, all that has been conducted is more or less a *post-mortem* : assuming that the contractor was exempted from liability, was he also exempted from negligence? If what he was constructing got destroyed as a result of negligence on his part, I do not think that sort of exemption should come in. I think the Audit Department should have been more categorical, more brave in making some categorical findings on the issue. It does not sound nice to say that they went into all enquiries and all they found was the terms of the contract were defective in that respect. Who drew up the contract? The man must at least be made responsible. Again Sir, there are so many items in which the Audit Department found that a number of Departments or Ministers over-spent without due authority and without conforming to the provisions of the law with regard to expenditure. For example, they found that in the Ministry of Finance an unauthorised over-expenditure amounting to £157,000. Again, in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, they found over-expenditure of about £72,000; Ministry of Health £79,000.

In each of these cases, the Audit Report has not been brave enough to say whose responsibility it is. All we hear is that so much was over-spent; the Permanent Secretary to explain. I think, Sir, that one had expected that when they were going into detailed investigations like that, they would have the answers and embody their answers and explanations in their report rather than being so vague. It is all right being a gentleman but if the examiners scrutinise our accounts, I think gentility may go to the extent of being cowardice.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I like to endorse in full what the last speaker said. I was a member of the Public Accounts Committee last year, in fact I was the Chairman and I found that the Director of Federal Audit is working under a very heavy handicap, handicap with respect to the Department, handicap with respect to many other

things, not the least of which is with respect to the members of the Public Accounts Committee themselves.

I remember on a particular occasion, we found a very very shocking incident and at the stage of wording the report, I think I used the very extreme word 'condemnable' or 'damnable' or something of that nature, something which is very strong. I found it very difficult to persuade my colleagues to accept that word. The result was that the final report was considerably watered down. I do not know what we are to do in the circumstance but the blame I should say, is not on the Director of Federal Audit at all.

Question put and agreed to.

£93,690 for Head 57—Audit—agreed to.

HEAD 58.—ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Question proposed, That £53,410 for Head 58—Electoral Commission—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr J. B. Egboigbodi (Asaba West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very happy to be called upon to speak on this Head. I seize this opportunity to congratulate the Federal Electoral Commission for the impartial activities and the hard work displayed during the Federal Elections to this Honourable House.

I urge this House to see to it that elections which are the supreme voice of the people are not left in the hands of people that can take dictation and directives from any political party as is the case in the Western Region. There, all the electoral officers who incidentally are Local Council secretaries and treasurers and their assistants who are Local Authority school teachers must be Action Group members or inclined, so that dumping of ballot papers into the boxes of Action Group candidates and other questionable activities may be possible. Election instructions are not released to the public or to other political opponents until it is too late or until the chances of the Action Group candidates have been safeguarded.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : I feel, Sir, that when people are defeated, they should accept it with a spirit of sportsmanship. There are provisions for polling agents, for party agents, for police officers and I think it is

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most invidious on the part of this hon. Member to be mentioning the name of the Action Group in such a derogatory manner.

Mr Egboigbodi : Sir, because of all the questionable activities, I pray the Federal Government to make it possible for the Federal Electoral Commission to take complete control of all elections in this country in order to stop these abuses of execution of law on the supreme voice of the people. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North East) : It is quite evident Mr Chairman, that the hon. Member is reading all the time. He is reading.

An hon. Member : It is irrelevant too.

The Chairman : Order. I do hope the hon. Member will make less reference to his notes.

Mr Egboigbodi : Mr Chairman, Sir, Action Group Members are worried because I am exposing them. I would strongly suggest to the Government to see to it that during the implementation of the Referendum in the Mid-West area according to Section 5 (b) of our Constitution the local Council staff and the Local Authority school teachers in the Mid-West area are not used as officers or assistants for the plebiscite. Rather the people of this area will prefer the staff for this purpose to be drawn from the East, North or Lagos in order to get the correct will of the people of that area. For these amphibious Groupers who are as changeable as the chameleon—

Mr W. Briggs (Degema) : I have always known the meaning of 'amphibian' to be. (*Laughter, laughter*) but I do not know if my hon. Friend is referring really to this 'amphibian' or some other one.

The Chairman : I do not think the hon. Member has raised a point of order.

Mr Egboigbodi : They seem to agree to it now but they will work through their Local Council agents to make the creating of this fourth Region impossible.

With these comments, Sir, I support the Bill.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : Mr Chairman, the only point I just like to make is in respect of the Chairman of the Federal Electoral Commission. I do not want to criticise any of the members and I have the

best regard for them all but this I may say. The time now is due for the Chairman of the Federal Electoral Commission to be a Nigerian. I thought we have a lot of material both inside the University Colleges of this country and outside and even in the Civil Service, who can chairman this particular Commission. The gentleman who is there has done excellent work for us. I have no complaint against him although at times he makes serious mistakes. But that is out of the point now. I appeal to the Government that as soon as possible and before long, this gentleman should be replaced by a Nigerian.

Mr M. A. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West) : The only specific observation I have on this Head Sir, is this. Under 'Explanatory Details' you will find, "The Eastern portion of the Register only is to be revised this year and the Eastern Nigeria Government has been asked to meet half the cost which is tentatively estimated at £60,000." By this, Sir, I mean it would have been too good if the three Regional Registers were to be revised at the same time.

An. hon. Member : Why ?

Mr Dame-Oboh : I have my reasons for it.

Several hon. Members : Tell them, tell them.

Mr Dame-Oboh : I would like the Federal Government to take up this matter without being biased because the elections in Nigeria are not fair throughout. Everybody is aware Sir, that in the West and the East, elections are all right, although merely because of politics, people cry out when they cannot acknowledge their defeat. In the North the election is not even an election. (*Laughter.*)

The Chairman : Order, order. Point of order. Abdullahi Magajin Musawa.

M. Abdullahi Magajin Musawa (Musawa) : The hon. Member is speaking about a Regional matter.

The Chairman : I do not think he is talking on reasonable matters. (*Laughter.*)

Mr Dame-Oboh : In the West women are allowed to vote ; in the East women are allowed to vote ; in the North—the North is a part of Nigeria—why cannot the women also vote ?

If you go through the weird manner in which they put up their candidates, if you read the papers on how they change their Electoral Regulations you will agree that the thing is just unbelievable. It is even an advantage to the Northerners who are now taking upon themselves to train their children into—*(Interruption)*. It will not always be that the Alkalis and the Sheuhu's will continue to be—*(Interruption)*.

The result of the last Federal Election is not even to the expectation of any political party. We are happy that the hon. Tafawa Balewa is to-day the Prime Minister. We are happy to see him and we are happy to have him as our Prime Minister, as a special God-send, to teach the Southerners a lesson because they think they are too advanced. *(Interruptions)*.

The Chairman : Order, order. Mr Dame-Obob.

Mr Dame-Obob : We know, Sir, in the Election we of the Action Group are being fair. We are over-ripe to conduct everything ourselves. The N.C.N.C. in particular, as you know them, as liars, bribe takers, bribe givers. They cross through the River Niger to link up in the Mid-West—*(Interruption)*.

The Chairman : Order, order. On point of order, Mr Elenwa.

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West) : On Point of order, Sir, he should speak of the Electoral Commission and not the N.C.N.C. *(Hear, hear)*.

The Chairman : I think it covers a wide field in elections.

Mr Dame-Obob : I have known their plans. Before I was able to win my election I had certain allegations from the N.C.N.C. carrying me to the police because all the N.C.N.C.—*(Several hon. Member ; Sit down ! Shame on you !)*

The Chairman : Order. I shall not take any more interruptions from my right.

Mr Dame-Obob : Mr Chairman, Sir, well I do not think we will be doing ourselves any good if we do not know the truth, that the way the others conducted their election is not a way to show popularity. They simply nominate,

select and bring the people here. I want the Federal Government to do one thing. They know the Northerners. They are more in population. If God says they are going to dominate they can still dominate. Well, why cannot they now agree to follow the plans ?

In the North you are not allowed to go outside to campaign. In the North you are not even allowed to speak to your wife. I have seen a man from the North, I have seen somebody in the North during the Election, because he happened to be at the back of his car he was taken to court and jailed. And he is the owner of the car, his own car ! Well, although this does not mean that we are really disgusted in your religion, but where you tell the people that it is a sin for women to vote—

The Chairman : Order. I do not think the hon. Member should go to religious matters at this stage.

Mr Dame-Obob : Tell them the proper process of elections. In any future elections the Federal Government should be on the alert with the police. If you go to bother of appointing all these people it does not mean we are doing the right thing. The money there is not too much for any election but you should see that the police are there.

And then we should warn people from the N.C.N.C. about impersonation. What do they generally do to-day in the Mid-West ? To-day you find that the Easterners have emigrated into Benin. They are more in population than the citizens of the place and all their names are alike. When they call *Okonkwo*, any *Okonkwo* will come. *(Laughter)*. Everybody there *(An hon. Member : Shut up.)*

The Chairman : Order. There is no breach of order in his speech, so far.

Mr Dame-Obob : There should be no tribalism, but at the election everybody is *Okonkwo* in any police station. *(Laughter)*. Finally, Sir, I would ask the Federal Government to be on the alert and to try to persuade the Northerners to agree with the Southerners on the main principles of conducting elections.

M. Aminu Kano (Kano East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, may I say a few words on the mechanics of elections. *(Interruptions)*.

The Chairman : Order, order ! I do not want to mention names but I think Members have now reached the mark.

M. Aminu Kano : As I have said, Sir, I want to say something about the mechanics of elections in this country, and I want to refer particularly to polling booths. I think there must be a standard polling booth in this country. When we are contesting the federal elections, the design of the polling booths must be uniform all over the country. If people in Lagos have polling booths which are built of wood, and are well protected and well screened, there is no reason why we should have something different in any part of the country. (*Hear, hear*).

During the 1959 elections, things were different and I was very impressed with what I saw in Lagos, and I think, Sir, that that example must be followed all over the country. I have protested against, and I think, I must again condemn, the use of *zana* mats or cloths as polling stations.

An hon. Member : Are you referring to the Western Region ?

M. Aminu Kano : I have not seen the polling stations in the Western Region, but I registered my protest in the Northern Region about the way and manner polling stations were built. These polling stations were built with *zana* mats, and one could see the legs of voters, and also tell towards which of the boxes a voter was moving.

In the various areas where these things happened, protests were lodged but the Electoral Commissioner insisted on using cloths. One could also see from outside the shadow of a man in the booth I protested about this, but the Electoral Commissioner in Kaduna refused to listen to my complaint. I protested also to the then Governor-General, Sir James Robertson, who also refused to look into these things. This is not a matter for the Government, rather it is a matter for the Electoral Commissioner to be absolutely impartial when we are contesting elections. That, Sir, is why I want to see uniform and well-protected polling stations.

I have some fears, however, as to whether in this country, or in Africa as a whole, the ballot box is an assurance of democracy. I begin to

fear also whether the ballot box is useful for safeguarding the liberty and interest of the people of Africa, because I have found that there are so many wicked schemes and plans calculated to ruin the chances of fair elections. For instance, Sir, people come and take their ballot papers, after which their thumb mark is imprinted with ink and they can then go and vote. But what happens ? They have devised a scheme of washing this ink away, after which they can go and vote a second time. If the law says that people should vote once, and yet people devise a scheme of washing away the ink with illicit gin, and then go back to the same electoral officer and vote the second time, I see no assurance of the protection of people's liberty. This, Sir, is why some of us suggested that there should no longer be boxes for political parties.

We say that there should be one single box, as it is done in Britain. If this is done, nobody will have the opportunity of going into the polling booth to vote twice, or of taking a ballot paper, going into the polling booth, coming out again with the ballot paper and selling it.

What, Sir, is the remedy for selling ballot papers ? I think the only remedy is that, either we ask the voter to imprint the ballot paper with two fingers and put the ink mark on the two fingers of either hand, so that he cannot use any of his hands to bring out the ballot paper without spoiling it ; or we abolish the ballot box for political parties, and put only one box before the electoral officer, so that any voter going into the booth must take out his ballot paper, put it in an envelope in a secret place, come out before the presiding officer and political parties agents, and put it in the box. Then we can be sure that nobody will come out with his ballot paper in order to vote with it again. That is what I feel, Sir.

I would like also to say that the Electoral Commission must think about election expenses in this country. So much money is spent by candidates in contesting elections. There has been much corruption, much bribery, and a candidate contesting election can do anything, go anywhere, spend any amount of money. In England, it is said that you cannot spend more than £100 for an election.

An hon. Member : The amount is £40, not £100.

M. Aminu Kano : Yes, £40. How they do it I do not know, but why can we not do the same thing here? Why should a candidate be left to spend £2,000 or £3,000 for an election and then come back here to speak. If we pretend to use the ballot box because it is one of the symbols of democracy, or to use election as a symbol of democracy simply because it is done in England, America, and all over the world, and yet we find here that it entails so much corruption, I do not think that we are doing service to our country.

Two years ago, the election in Kenya was very badly rigged and the people revolted against it. I do not want this country to reach a stage in which elections will be rigged, force will be used, influence will be used and people will revolt against the method used to elect candidates into this Assembly. I must advise the Government, the Electoral Commissioner, and everybody in this House, that if we want to be democratic, it does not only mean that we must contest elections and come to this House to make speeches, but we must allow the flow of democracy in its proper form. I begin to feel, Sir, that we may have all the ballot boxes, all the nominations, all the elections, but the way we return candidates into this House everybody knows is corrupt and undemocratic. I, therefore, hope Sir, that the Electoral Commission will not just sit down and wait for another election, but will sit down to study the problems concerning Nigeria. We must make our own elections peculiar to ourselves.

I hate to see us copy what is happening somewhere else. If in this country, the ballot box will not safeguard the liberty of our people, let us find something else. If through elections, we cannot ensure our own security and ensure the welfare of the people to be returned to this House, people who will naturally govern the country democratically and effectively, then we must change the system and see how best democracy will operate in Nigeria.

I do not believe that we can lay the blame on one party or another. I do not believe that the problems of one region is peculiar to that region; I believe that the problem of a region is not only its own problem but the problem

of the whole country. If there is a problem in the West, or the East or the North, the people in this Parliament must look at it as a national problem, not as political party problem which will be used for the purpose of party politics in this House. I, therefore, want something which will give us the assurance that democracy will operate effectively in this country.

Sir, I beg to support the Head.

M. Abdullahi, Magajin Musawa (Musawa) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting the provision for the Electoral Commission, I would like to reply to what the hon. Gentleman on the Opposition Bench said and to endorse what Mallam Aminu Kano has just said.

We in Northern Nigeria do not know what is meant by bribery or corruption. I can remember that it was the Leader of the minority party in this House who flew in a helicopter over the Northern Region distributing money, leaflets, and singlets in order to swell Action Group votes. Tell me, what is that? During the last Federal Elections, I defeated the Action Group candidate who opposed me with over 10,000 votes. It is the Action Group who wants to bribe the people of the North and divide the Region; and we do not agree. It is shameful.

I am appealing to the officers of the Electoral Commission to make sure that the Action Group do not import hooligans into the Northern Region during elections. We in the Northern Region cannot tolerate hooliganism.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr S. O. Kolade (Oyo South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, with reference to the Electoral Commission, I think the North is actually not yet self-governing. I feel Nigeria is self-governing minus the North. During elections in the North there is no freedom of speech, no freedom of assembly and you cannot campaign. They get N.A. Policemen to disturb campaigners, unwarranted arrests of politicians on the eve of elections! Where there is no freedom of speech, no freedom to campaign—

The Chairman : I think this is within fundamental human rights and not within the Electoral Commission itself.

Mr Kolade : Mr Chairman, Sir, it is true, but I am still emphasising that the North is not practising all these things. I know we have a Constitution but what I am saying is that this Constitution is not being followed in the Northern Region and something should be done about it.

With reference to N.C.N.C. Members in this House, I know that whenever we mention anything like this against the Northern Region on this Side of the House they often make a noise and try to disturb us, but it is because they allied themselves blindly with the N.P.C. That is why they do not want to see the evil which is going on in the North. This will not help us at all. I think this is the time when we should co-operate and fight out the evil which is now reigning in the North as this will not help our country.

The Electoral Commission should look into these things and, I think Parliament should consider all these things seriously. If we are self-governing we would like all our Electoral Regulations to be uniform as it is laid down in the Constitution.

I now come to the question of polling booths. I support Mallam Aminu Kano on that. I have been told that in the North the polling booths are not the standard ones. When a voter is voting you can see his legs and when he comes out you can ask him for which party he voted. Of course, Mallam Aminu Kano himself should have stayed longer in the North to fight out this issue. I think meanwhile he cannot go back to the North because—

M. Aminu Kano : On point of Information, Mr Chairman. I have been in the North for the past eleven years fighting for the freedom of the people. This gentleman has never been there at all.

Mr Kolade : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am still repeating my challenge that the hon. Member should try and check this evil in the North and we are ready to co-operate with him. The Action Group is the only Party which has been crying against this evil in the North but we need the support of all sides of the House in order to make the campaign against this evil very effective; realising that the Action Group is always constitutional in its ways.

Sir, we support the Estimates for the Electoral Commission, because we know that the Commission is an important Commission for the whole of the Federation of Nigeria and as much as possible whatever money there is for this Commission will be approved by us, provided the Electoral Commission will look into all these things we are saying for the benefit of the country so that we can do things constitutionally.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to make a few observations on the points raised by the last speaker. I am ashamed that Members of the Action Group are attacking the Northern Regional Government because some of us who come from the West know the Action Group practice as far as the question of Election is concerned. We have very bitter experience about the printing of ballot papers by the Action Group Party in the West to be dumped in the ballot boxes and, there have been several cases in the Court and most of them have proved a failure.

I have heard the arguments of Members saying that election should be a Federal subject. Most of us agree to this but we should realise that it is a question of Constitutional procedure. If all the major political parties can agree and make a prayer to Parliament, I am sure the Federal Government may consider it and amend the Constitution without which all these cries cannot help. (*An hon. Member : Are you a Northerner ?*)

The Chairman : Will Mr Dosunmu please maintain silence ?

Mr Lana : I am not a Northerner, but I am speaking from my experience in the Western Region where elections have never been fair at all, where Electoral Officers and Polling Agents are agents of the Action Group; we all know that.

Opposition Members are saying that Alkalis and Emirs are influencing elections in the North, what of the Obas and Customary Court Judges who go to campaign and handle ballot papers which they dump in ballot boxes? So, Mr Chairman, I think it will be necessary at this stage if political parties can think

seriously of the possibility of coming together to effect an amendment to our Constitution whereby we can bring elections under Federal control. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Really, this question of interruption, persistent interruption is becoming something rather a menace to this House, and it is really serious that quite a few people spoil the debate of this House. I think we must maintain silence in order to make good progress.

Mr Lana : Thank you, Mr Chairman. I heard Mr Kolade saying that Electoral Regulations are not even all over the Federation ; I agree. But, as I said earlier, it is the fault of all political parties. If a resolution can be submitted to Parliament, I am sure the Federal Government will consider it.

£53,410 for Head 58—*Electoral Commission—agreed to.*

HEAD 59—JUDICIAL

Question proposed, That £151,260—Judicial—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South-East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, anyone who has anything to do with the administration of justice will no doubt appreciate the significance of the Judiciary. I am happy to hear that there is a move to revise the Criminal Law and the Company Law of this country. I think, Sir, that it should be done very quickly.

The other day, Sir, we were discussing the question of corruption in this House. Now I feel, and I think it is right, that the law and the law courts exist for the purpose of safeguarding the community, making sure that a community can progress in a state of law and order. Now the position as it is now is that some aspects of English law which we have taken over are really not very applicable to the present state of development in this country. In particular I am referring to the question of the burden of proof.

If we want to get rid of corruption, I think we have got to have a new idea of the burden of proof. Corruption is a thing that takes place in private. It is usually a matter of confidential negotiation and confidential exchange of gifts. But with the present sense of responsibility and sense of judgment, if you continue to persist doggedly in the doctrine

that the man who says somebody is corrupt must prove it to the last then you have no serious intention of minimising the offence.

I think the same thing is true of our business life. It is the usual thing and it is unfortunate that a man who steals from a business firm is not generally regarded as a thief, he is thought of in terms of a clever businessman. Someone joins in business with another and in good faith they start. The day the business starts yielding profit the other man makes away with the money. People do not usually regard him as a thief : they think him a clever businessman, and if the matter goes to court the onus of proof is so embarrassing. The man on whose side justice is will find it extremely difficult to explain to the satisfaction of the law what he is talking about !

If we want this country to make progress, we must revise and rethink about the burden of proof in certain aspects of our criminal law.

I think that in matters of fraud, particularly when we want the resources of this country to be developed, not only by the Government but also by private citizens, we must make sure that anyone placed in a position of confidence, the day he starts playing about, the day he starts enriching himself at the expense of a legitimate business enterprise, the day he starts enriching himself wickedly at the expense of his business colleagues who are dealing with him in confidence, let him be placed on the defensive on some reasonable allegation. If there is the slightest *prima facie* evidence to connect him, let the onus of proof rest on him heavily.

When we are talking of corruption, I may use this sort of example. Here you have a native court clerk whose salary is about £72 per annum. He is building a three-storey house, he is got a son in England, he is got a cousin at the University College, Ibadan, he has already got three wives and he is negotiating for a fourth one, and he is on £72 per annum. If tomorrow there is an accusation of corruption against this man, the accuser who may well know what he is talking about but, because of the very confidential nature of the transactions, cannot say beyond a certain limit, is heavily placed on the defensive. I think, Mr Chairman, Sir, that our Judiciary should think again

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on the jurisprudence of our criminal and company law. The onus of proof should be shifted more on the man accused.

When our people are wiser, more responsible and more judicious, then we will start re-adjusting things. But at a time when we have too many people who cannot differentiate between what belongs to another person and what belongs to them, I think it will make for better progress if we can, at least to the extent, be more primitive.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I notice in the Estimates that the salary of the Chief Registrar has been increased from £2,200 which it was in 1960-61 to £2,700, an increase of £480. I think this is a very happy note, and I would even say that it does not go far enough. I would prefer to see the Chief Registrar of the Federal Supreme Court earning a salary of at least £2,940, and I have several reasons for this.

Now, it appears to me that people do not want to stay in that post and that they make it a sort of springboard from where they become High Court Judges or take other higher appointments, and the chief reason for that is that the salary of the office is not adequate. I made this point during the last Budget Session.

For instance, during the last four years, we have had three people in this particular office—Mr Duffus, Mr Madarikan and lately Mr Sowemimo—all of whom are now High Court Judges and the office is vacant. The trouble is that the gap between the salary of the Chief Registrar of the High Court and the Judges is too wide and invariably the qualifications of the two offices are more or less the same. So the only thing to do to pin people down there, for purposes of efficiency and continuity, is to make the salary of that post attractive.

If I know that I can become a High Court Judge and earn £3,300 per annum, why should I go and become the Chief Registrar of the Federal Supreme Court and earn £2,700?

Furthermore, the work of the Chief Registrar of the Federal Supreme Court is very onerous. Apart from the fact that he is the head of the administrative section of the Judiciary, it is also his duty to prepare papers and index appeals from all three Regions and the Federal territory of Lagos. Not only that,

he is also the editor of the Nigerian Law Reports; not only that, he is also the Secretary to the Judicial Service Commission. It is only fair, that a man who holds all these responsibilities in which there are so many complications and which require high qualifications, should earn something very high.

I therefore hope that the learned Attorney-General will take these points into account and when preparing the estimates for next year he should endeavour to increase the emolument of the holder of this office from £2,700 to £2,940.

Mr Chairman, there is also the question of the seats in the Federal Supreme Court. The seats for lawyers in the Federal Supreme Court are not the best type which we should have. Take for instance the tables. The tables are as useless as anything. You cannot put your books on them; if you put your books on the tables you find them all on the floor. The result is that when lawyers go there to argue appeals we sit on the chair and then put our books on the floor, and as you argue the appeal and make reference, you have to bend down and take your books from the ground!

I think that sort of position is intolerable. Also there are some holes under the tables called drawers which are useless to lawyers. I think the Attorney-General should look into that; if possible he should make an inspection and overhaul the whole thing.

My learned friend, Mr Akwivu, made a very fine point on the question of corruption and the amendment of our criminal code. I agree with his views and I think the law should be amended in such a way that if a man owns property or has money more than what he should normally have, particularly if he is a salaried man, then a *prima facie* case of corruption can be made against him. Take for instance a man who is on a salaried job of £5,000 per annum, and within five years in real estate and in cash in bank he is worth over a quarter of a million pounds. Then there should be a *prima facie* case of corruption against him in this country. I am just giving an example this morning. There is also the example of a lawyer who is secretary of a corporation and who has been there for not

less than three years. He is already worth more than £40,000 although he is on a salary of about £3,000 per annum. From where has he got this money? Also, he has real estate right and left.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, this Head is under the portfolio of our respected hon. Minister of Justice. I dare say that one of the things of which the Federal Government could be proud is the acquisition of the Minister of Justice who concentrates all his attention and all his time on his profession of law.

We all know that the courts in this country are the bastion of the liberty of the individual. I have always felt very unhappy when aspersions are being cast on the conduct and character of judges in this country. If we look round we find that but for the courts, but for the judicial system, which we have in this country, there would be more commotion than we would be able to cope with.

I think somebody said the other day that in Nigeria alone there are more legally trained people than there are in all the other parts of Africa put together. Well, some people are complaining that there are too many lawyers, too many judges, too many this and too many that; but they forget that if the average individual does not have the court to resort to for redress he would have other resort to take and this may be violent and may cause all sorts of unpleasantness and disorder. I think we should be grateful that we in this country have a judicial system which is as wide as could be and which makes our progress rather steady.

It would be presumptuous of me to remind the hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of the high responsibilities which he has to carry. But I daresay that in this country to-day the tendency on the part of the executive in certain parts of the Federation is to usurp the functions of the Judiciary. And I think it is high time something was done to put a check to this tendency. We know that we are lucky in one thing, particularly in the Western Region where the Head of the Government is a lawyer. (*Interruptions*). We follow the Constitution and judges are appointed by the Judicial Service Commission.

Everybody knows that every individual has his politics and even the Minister of Justice to whom I am appealing has his own politics. But what I am saying is that it is a very rare thing for a lawyer at the Head of a government (if you also look round the whole world) to become a dictator. (*Prolonged interruptions*).

An hon. Member : Castro is not a dictator; he is a socialist democrat! (*Interruptions*).

Chief Akin-Olugbade : Perhaps my hon. Friend thinks that because Castro nationalised American business and drove away the corrupt government in Cuba he has become a dictator. I am sorry to divert, Sir.

The Chairman : Will the hon. Member speak on Judiciary.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : What I am saying is that the tendency is becoming rampant and we would call upon the hon. Minister of Justice to use his influence. We know that it is difficult because the people he has to deal with do not even understand, and they find it difficult to understand that they have to sever judicial functions from executive functions. But we still urge him to try because it will be a sad thing for this country when the executive could stifle the voice of the opposition.

Sir, I agree with my hon. Friend, Mr Akinjide, in the remarks he made about the appointment of the Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court. With the coming into force of our Constitution our Government is being run on a written constitution. Great responsibilities have been added to the functions of the Federal Supreme Court and the man who has to deal mostly with the administrative job is the Chief Registrar. I agree with him that his salary should be not less than that of a Permanent Secretary. He is a professional and has greater responsibility to carry than somebody who has to process papers up to a stage where the Minister simply appends his signature.

I would like to make a suggestion because I find in the Estimates the posts of Chief Magistrates and Magistrates. I would like to suggest that the hon. Minister of Justice should consider the advisability of not appointing any practising barrister with less than five years experience as a magistrate. If he has to

[CHIEF AKIN-OLUGBADE]
because the exigencies of the service demand that a barrister should be appointed magistrate before he has had five years experience, he should appoint him on a temporary basis. And in an effort to prevent unnecessary insinuation and suspicion, I would request the hon. Minister to put magistrates in categories and on fixed salaries. We have that principle in the Western Region. There we have magistrates, senior magistrates and chief magistrates.

I think it is not a good thing for a magistrate to feel that he will not earn his next increment if he does not do the biddings of this man or that man or the executive or the senior officer. I think magistrates should be on a fixed salary. We feel that magistrates should be given £1,500. Senior magistrates who have had a number of years experience and who have been on the Bench for a number of years should be on another fixed salary and chief magistrates should also be on a different fixed salary. That is the humble suggestion which I would like the hon. Minister of Justice to consider.

We have been told about certain changes which the hon. Minister of Justice intends to make particularly to the Criminal Code. I was wondering to what extent he will make the changes, but I daresay that the Minister of Justice should please go thoroughly through the Criminal Code which operates in this country and compare it with the Criminal Law (where they do not have Codes) of other independent countries. Our Criminal Code was designed by our erstwhile rulers and the Code was designed to keep them in the Service. I think we should remember that before we came under the tutelage or rule of these people we had some sort of code of conduct among ourselves.

I think we should try to blend what obtained before the British advent with what has been in use since they came because I feel that the liberty of the individual is very much circumscribed by some of the provisions of our Criminal Code. For instance, in days gone by and in some parts of the country to-day we have a high moral standard because there are organisations whereby anybody who does anything wrong in the community will be exposed in songs, in music, during festivals, so that people are afraid to commit offences.

But here you have a Criminal Code which does not allow this practice. Where you have a Criminal Code that does not allow you to point out the mistakes or misdeeds of somebody who has been given power, a Minister in particular, who has been given power, we know Ministers are servants of the people but they are servants with power and it all depends upon how they use the powers they have. Their powers are intended to be used in a good way but Ministers use it for evil.

In Nigeria, as far as I know even here in Lagos, there is a certain festival which takes place every year. During that festival people in the community who have done good things during the year are praised. There are songs, and dances and people who are known to have done evils, to have brought the name of the community into disrepute during that year will be condemned in songs.

This happens even in Germany. The Germans have that custom. It also happens in places like Abeokuta and other towns in this country. But where you have a Criminal Code which does not allow you to say that a Minister of Government or a Parliamentary Secretary has done wrong, except when you are in Parliament or when you have a judicial privilege in the court—(Interruption).

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana) : On point of information, Sir, if the hon. Member finds anything wrong in that he must give way.

The Chairman : Order, if he does not give way then he must continue his speech.

Chief Olugbade : I wonder what a junior clerk earning £72 per annum in the Ibadan District Council has to say on this issue.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I was saying that I know that the responsibilities of our Minister of Justice are great but I would like him to go through that portion of our Criminal Code which is known as Provisions on Sedition. If our character, our conduct in Africa, has been as bad as some foreigners are trying to take us it will have been very difficult for them to remain in this country; if we have been as bad, as corrupt, as they try to depict us. I am with respect asking the hon. Minister of Justice to see that our Criminal Code, with particular

reference to provisions on sedition, is brought up to the standard of other civilised people. The provisions we have there to-day are not good enough even for beasts.

The other day, Sir, I spoke about changes in the law.

One other point I would like to dwell upon briefly is the question of casting aspersions on our Judges. The other day the Minister of Internal Affairs came into this House and made certain threats against a Regional Government upon information supplied in a Question which he had not investigated. I do not know whether he made that prepared answer—

The Chairman : Order ! Minister of Internal Affairs.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. Usman Sarki) : I made a statement, Mr Chairman, on the information given to me. I was informed that there were people in Aniocha District who were denied their legal rights. They have got the right to appeal against the assessment; they fulfilled all the conditions required; you said that if anybody wants to appeal, (*interruptions*).

(*Chief Olugbade rose*).

The Chairman : Order, I think it is proper that the Minister, in order not to be misunderstood over issues like this, should be allowed to make explanations.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : The conditions were laid down by the Regional Government that if you want to appeal against assessment you have to pay a quarter of the amount assessed. That has been done. Then you have to pay five shillings appeal fee. And that has also been done. Yet these people continued to wait for the tribunal to come to hear their appeal. But before this was done the people were brought to the court and imprisoned. They have been denied their legal rights which we cannot do. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order, order. I think these interruptions must stop. This heckling and giggling for no reason should not be allowed on the Floor of this House. Will Chief Olugbade please continue his speech.

Chief Enahoro (Ishan East) : On point of Order, Sir, for a Federal Minister hearing an allegation against a Regional Government or

against a properly constituted council, without hearing either from the Regional Minister concerned or from that council, to proceed to take action on the Floor of this House, is I think very improper.

The Chairman : Order, order. This is not a parliamentary way of doing things. We are here for the good of the public and I think we should speak gently and with the realisation that there must be co-operation on both sides for the good of the country. In view of what I have said, will Chief Olugbade please continue his speech.

Chief Olugbade : Thank you, Mr Chairman. I was speaking with all sense of responsibility because I do not envy our hon. Minister of Internal Affairs because of the gravity and the importance of the responsibilities which he carries. But I have said before that there is the tendency for such people with powers to use them in such a way as to usurp the rights bestowed upon individuals by the law. There are people who make no sacrifices whatsoever.

The Minister of Internal Affairs and Chief Enahoro continued to exchange words in under tones.

The Chairman : Order, I think the Minister of Internal Affairs and Chief Enahoro should realise that this is not a boxing ring. If they want to do boxing they should go and register their names with one of the boxing clubs.

Chief Enahoro : He cannot resist me !

Chief Olugbade : Mr Chairman, Sir, everybody knows that the Minister of Internal Affairs has a sort of—

The Minister of Internal Affairs rose.

The Chairman : Order, order; Chief Olugbade.

Several hon. Members : Shame, shame !

Chief Olugbade : I am surprised that the hon. Minister of Internal Affairs does not want his name to be mentioned. I was referring to cases where the executive tries to usurp the powers of the judiciary, and I was saying that it is not a thing that will bring good to our country. I have just mentioned his name and he feels so fidgety. The sadistic nature of the hon. Minister is known to everybody in this country. But this is not the place—

[DR EZERA]
way of crime while Parliament is in Session, by way of other types of intimidations and assaults on our persons. (*Applause*).

I think, Sir, the issue of Parliamentary immunity is very, very important. On the other hand, I must make bold to say that while this House is composed of all responsible people, I personally would not like to be snobbed, ill-treated, or debunked on the Floor of this House, or outside, because I know I am responsible, but each and every one of us must show also that personal responsibility by not going to kow-tow and sing the tune of foreign favour as that reflects on the member's dignity. (*Hear, hear*).

When Members of the House go round sneaking around Ministers for favours, or from the Government Bench for favours here and there and asking for this and that, surely, it reflects on the calibre of the mentality of them, and, therefore, if we must maintain the dignity of ourselves as Members of Parliament we should—not that we should not ask for favour—but we should ask for it with dignity and still retain our self-respect.

Sir, the other point I would like to make is on the issue of Hall Porters' uniforms. The uniforms of the Hall Porters to this House look like those of the petrol sellers. Those of you who buy petrol outside will agree that there is no difference between their uniforms and those used by petrol attendants. The first time I came into this House and saw a Hall Porter I thought he came from the Petrol Station with a bill. I did not know he was a Hall Porter.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I understand these people have already approached you with a view to changing their uniforms, and that the matter is under discussion. All that one would say here is that it should be expedited.

The last point is in regard to the invasion of our Members' Refectory up-stairs by strangers. Each time, if you can walk up there, you will find in the Tea Room, whatever you call it, many strangers, most of them dressed in khaki-khaki from head to foot like drivers. We do not know what they are; they are not Members of the House; they are not even strangers from outside. We think, Sir, the time has come for Government to think about building a small chalet outside there where guests to Members and people who come to look

for Members will stay and wait for them, instead of invading the Tea Room upstairs.

And the last point, Sir, concerns the question of a library. The House Library is inadequate; it is an apology of the worst order; the people working there are trying their best, but I think it is hopelessly inefficient. We think that the time has come again for the Speaker to look into that place and give us a modern library befitting a House of Representatives of an independent Nigeria.

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

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East): Mr Chairman, Sir, may I associate myself completely with the remarks of the hon. Dr Ezera. I think, Sir, that Government must take part of the blame for the affront which Parliament has suffered from time to time.

A few days ago, we were told on the Floor of this House that an outside person had written to a Member in quarrelling terms about a certain statement he had made on the Floor of this House. It is an affront to this Parliament, not merely to the Member himself, that he should be accountable to anyone outside this House, except his constituency and his Party, for the views which he has expressed on the Floor of this House.

I would like to remind you, Sir, that some time ago our own High Commissioner in the United Kingdom was criticised on the Floor of the British Parliament because he has bought an expensive car and the British Government thought they had lost some of their revenue derivable from purchase tax. Why did he not buy a smaller car? He was criticised on the Floor of the British Parliament. The First Secretary of the Ghana High Commission was queried. A query was raised on the Floor of the House and the Ghana Government had to give an undertaking that he would not take part in future demonstrations. He had taken part in a demonstration in connection with Lumumba's death.

Well, if in Britain, from whom we are copying all these things, such high standards of behaviours are required of Diplomats and Foreign Representatives, why must we lower the standard in this country?

I think it is an affront of Parliament, and I do hope the Government will take it up with the representatives of the foreign countries, how-

ever friendly the countries may be with Nigeria, to see that they do not interfere with the expression of views candidly held by Members of this House.

I suggest that Dr Ezera's points in regard to the privileges of Members should be looked into very closely. It is true that there is a Powers and Privileges Ordinance which also applies in the Regions, but I think that the time has come, the time of our sovereign Parliament, for us to examine those privileges, because whatever is done in a derogatory manner to Members of this Parliament outside this House reflects on this Parliament.

Unfortunately, some of the matters to which one would have wished to refer are in courts and are *sub judice*, and one cannot raise them. But, I think that one can say that it is an affront of Parliament if Members, when the House is sitting, are not free to attend to the business of the House; in certain cases, because of occurrences which are supposed to have taken place nine or ten months before, Members are not able to attend the sitting of the House.

I must complain, Mr Chairman, that this Parliament has not really played an effective role in the administration of this country. There are various hours when one does not wish to attend to lectures, but every Member knows the place of this Parliament in the administration of the country, and, I think, Sir, that due to no fault of Members this Parliament is not playing an effective role, and, I think, that the Minister accountable in this respect is the Leader of the House, the Minister of Finance.

I am sure that I speak for all Members when I say that we are prepared to attend to the meetings at any time we are summoned, and it is not right that in passing important Government measures that it should be processed when the House is not sitting. What is Parliament for? I am saying this now, not merely in criticism of the Minister concerned, but because it is of interest to all of us that Parliament should be seen by the public to play an effective role; otherwise, as I have had occasion to say before, there will always be temptation on the part of certain people to try to seek remedies elsewhere.

This happens in other countries. Why can we not learn from them? The more effective this Parliament is the more democracy would be safeguarded, and I have in mind in particular in this respect as I said before, the duties which were imposed a week or two after Parliament rose last year. That kind of thing is not right. That kind of measure should be brought to Parliament. They are important enough even for Parliament to have a special meeting. That is what we are here for, and I suggest very strongly to the Minister of Finance, and to the Government, that if they have important measures they should try and summon Parliament. We shall always be willing to come here and do our duties.

An increase in salaries has been proposed. There were some complaints among certain people, not because they think that hon. Members of this House are not in themselves worthy of a thousand pounds a year, but because, as it appeared in one newspaper, after counting the number of days in which we sat as 72, they feel we should not get a thousand pounds for 72 days. But that is not our fault. Hon. Members on all Sides, I am sure, are willing to come here as often as we are summoned, and we are prepared to give full value for whatever salary hon. Members are paid.

The public should be informed that it is not up to Members to bring themselves here. Members cannot come here unless they are summoned.

Also, Sir, I wish to say a few words on some of the occurrences in this House. Firstly, Parliament has not been effective, because, as one example, Ministers largely avoid supplementary questions. I have taken very careful note of those Ministers who have ever cared to answer supplementary questions without merely saying: "I require a notice." Apart from the Prime Minister, the Attorney-General, the Minister of Communications, and the Minister of Finance, almost every other Minister as well as Parliamentary Secretaries, as soon as you ask a supplementary question they say: "I require a notice."

It is part of their duties to come here, to master their subjects, and to be able to answer supplementary questions. If we are not to have the opportunity to ask supplementary

[CHIEF ENAHORO]
 questions we may as well ask for written answers. It is because you want to pursue the matter that we put it down for an oral answer. But as a rule the whole thing is put off.

A number of Ministers have been deliberately avoiding questions on the Adjournment by the simple expedient of absenting themselves, and this does not only apply to the Opposition, it applies to Members of all Sides. We have had this complaint. If a Member takes the trouble to wish to raise an important question which affects his constituency or the country at large, he approaches the Minister, and he is told he can raise it, and then on the Adjournment, for some reasons the Minister is not seen here and then the Member cannot raise his question. I do not think this is wise.

The period for Adjournment is laid down to enable certain matters to be raised and Ministers ought to co-operate with Members so that these matters can be raised.

Furthermore, in the Committee of Supply Ministers have inflicted speeches on us which they did not have the opportunity of delivering in the course of the debates on the Motion on the Address. I do not think it is right, because they have in many cases taken up half an hour in giving us a review of their departmental activities, and then the whole House is left with half an hour to raise whatever they wish to raise in connection with their Departments. I do not think that is a correct practice. I think that Ministers should either try and make sure, in consultation with the Leader of the House, who should provide more time for the Debates on the Motion on the Address, or make a Ministerial Statement first thing in the morning, so that when we come to the Committee of Supply Members may raise their various points and Ministers can reply. But what has happened so far is that the Ministers have taken up so much time by addressing us and we are left with such little time that when the Question is put there are at least a dozen or more Members who still wish to speak. I do not think that is right also.

Also, Sir, the Meetings have been rushed. One can sometimes appreciate the reasons why it is necessary to rush the Meetings. But I do not think it is right for us to rush Meetings because of Regional Elections. It

happened the other time in respect of the West. It happens now in respect of the North. Some day we are going to have quick successions, and this Parliament will be unable to meet. I think that this Parliament has its own life.

We have our own constituencies and electorates. The Regional Parliaments and Leaders and whoever wish to assist them must manage their own affairs. I do not think it is right to adjourn this Parliament because there is an election in any one Region. Some day we may have six, eight, or more Regions. Nobody knows. What is going to happen? In the course of a year supposing two or three of them should hold elections then this House will be unable to meet. I suggest strongly that that is not right.

Mr Chairman, I wish to make a very brief reference to the cleanliness of this Parliament surroundings. I do not think it is of the highest standard even within this Chamber, if the Leader of the House will look behind him he will find cobwebs there, because they are shining under the lights. I do not think it is right that there ought to be cobwebs around us at all.

I also wish to associate myself with the tribute which has been paid to Mr Speaker. It may or may not be true that certain people had their doubts and reservations when he was appointed, but I think we are all satisfied with the manner in which he is carrying out his functions. (*Hear, hear*). This applies equally to all functionaries of the House, the Clerk and his assistants, *et cetera*. But there is only one small flaw, and that is, that I think the Leader of the House ought to borrow a leaf from the Speaker and go on an attachment for a short course to the House of Commons. If he does that it will be of great value to this House and, therefore, to the country at large. (*Laughter*).

I hope that I am not making the next point in a controversial manner, but I do want to suggest very strongly that this is not the proper forum for any side of this House to attack the policies or the activities of Regional Governments.

I suggest, Sir, that the Regional Parliaments have their Governments and their Oppositions and that when we come here we come to discuss Federal matters and subjects on the Federal

list. I think, Sir, that there will be great confusion in this country if we use this Floor to attack Regional Governments. Member of the Regional Parliaments, could be free to attack the Federal Government or even this Parliament. I suggest very strongly, Sir, that we keep within our bounds. This Government has its functions laid out in the Constitution. On our side, I do not think that any Member, whatever the provocation, can cite any incident in which I, or indeed practically any Member on our front Bench, has attacked any other Government.

I suggest, Sir, that (*Interruptions*) if the whole House accepts this proposition, we will be able to work in a much happier atmosphere here. After all, Mr Chairman, if you examine the controversial questions which have led to high feelings in this House, you will find that they are not Federal subjects but they are all Regional questions: people arrested in the North, taxes in the West, costs in the East, all sorts of things and I might suggest, Sir, that if we allow Parliamentarians in these Regions who are as competent as ourselves—we are no better than they are, the only difference between them and us is, we are here and they are there—so that if we leave them to look after their own Regions, we will be able to work in a far happier atmosphere in the Federal Parliament.

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

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, as usual, I would like to start from where my hon. Friend, Chief Enahoro, has stopped.

I am happy that he and the Members of the Opposition are appreciative of the work done by the Functionaries in this House and as regards the cobwebs, it may be that I think I need some eye glass to find them but cobwebs are inevitable in Nigeria and I am sure that that will be looked into as quickly as possible. But my hon. Friend has also mentioned the question of Parliamentary course for the Leader of the House. I can assure him that as soon as the Prime Minister is prepared to award a scholarship to the Leader of Opposition for both he and myself to go, I shall be willing to accompany him. (*Laughter*). I understand that it is the Minister of Education who awards scholarships and I will appeal to him to let the Leader of Opposition have one scholarship. (*Laughter*).

Mr Akin-Olugbade: Mr Chairman, the Leader of the House said when the Prime Minister is ready to award scholarship to the Leader of the Opposition. The criticism was made in good faith by the hon. Chief Enahoro (*Interruptions*) who is an older Parliamentarian a more experienced Parliamentarian than the Leader of the House. (*Interruptions*). When Chief Enahoro was a Member of the Old Legislative Council, he was not even a member of the District Council in Sapele. (*Laughter*).

The Chairman: Order, order. I think the Minister of Finance was more or less indicating the liberal attitude of the Government.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to assure the ignorant new Member to Parliament, Akin Olugbade, that the hon. Chief Enahoro will not subscribe to what he has said because the hon. Chief Enahoro knows that both of us started Parliamentary life together and at the same time. You are so new and green in Parliamentary matters and if the hon. Leader of Opposition will be awarded this scholarship, one of the duties that would devolve on him when he returns is to educate people like Akin Olugbade as the noise makers to allow the work of this Parliament to go on in peace instead of raising unnecessary Point of Order with a red cap on his head. (*Laughter*).

Mr Chairman, Sir, my hon. Friend has also made the point on the interference of a diplomat on matters already raised on the floor of this House and cited very good examples. I would like to say that as regards the special diplomat which my hon. Friend has in mind, I have made personal investigations and agree that certain criticisms are necessary on the Floor of this House, but in this case, I would like to appeal to the Members of the Opposition, not Government supporters this time, that in criticising any diplomat or any individual for that matter, no malice aforethought should be embedded in the points made in this House. I understand that my hon. Friend has certain axe to grind with the diplomat concerned (*Interruptions*). If that is so, I am not able to say whether that is true or not, I am only suggesting that if that is so my hon. Friend can thrash the matter out with him in other circles and not come to the Floor of this House to deceive us.

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

Now, Sir, my hon. Friend has also suggested that Parliament must meet more often than it does now. But surely, Sir, if my hon. friend would like us to take him seriously, I would only appeal to him to look at his front Bench, his second Bench and up to the last Bench, all the people have vamoosed and what is the use of Parliament when people will not attend. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order, order. I thought after the very eloquent advocacy on the quorum of this House from my left side, I thought people behind would be decorous.

The Minister of Finance : Now, Sir, in any case, my hon. Friend is well-known for putting in appearance here when he has something significant to say to this House. Without that, he is either in the Northern Region campaigning or he goes to Ishan to eat some pounded yam. (*Interruptions*).

Now, Sir, my hon. Friend also raised the point of the taxation measures which we introduced last time. Surely, my hon. Friend knows the practice so well that when taxation measures are going to be introduced, it must not be known to Parliament before it is introduced, it has to be introduced and brought to Parliament at any given time. So that there is no point really in summoning Parliament just because taxation measures which are already operative have been brought to bear by the Government. If there is sufficient reason at any time for Parliament to be summoned, naturally, the Prime Minister will do so without hesitation.

Now, Sir, my hon. Friend has also raised the question of Supplementary Questions. I can speak here for our able Parliamentary Secretaries and Ministers that where Members pose relevant supplementary questions and properly put a question and not make speeches, surely, my hon. Friend knows that if it is allowed by the Speaker the question will be answered, but if it is necessary to give notice, then it is essential to give notice. Now, Sir, Motions on the Adjournment. Usually some of them are so intricate and so many of them involve Regional Governments that it is difficult for Ministers to answer. But my hon. Friend will be aware that sometimes when the Minister refuses, Members still press on coming to the Floor of the House. So Ministers must give

their consent before Members should raise them here.

The speeches made by Ministers at committee stage I am sure are not foreign to parliamentary practice because if Ministers have no other facilities of making their statements they should make them in the Committee of Supply instead of making them as Ministerial Statements as my hon. Friend has asked me to do. It is better to make them at the Committee of Supply so that Members can debate them; but if it is a Ministerial Statement, naturally it will not be debated.

As regards Regional Elections, my hon. Friend will agree that it is impossible for us to say anything about that because by our Constitution, the Regional Governments have their right to bring in an election at any time.

An hon. Member : We have adjourned for that.

The Minister of Finance : I do not know that we have adjourned for that but (*Interruptions*) at least we are adjourning because this is a Budget Session and all financial bills having been disposed of, it is only necessary for us to give you some holiday and invite you again when it is necessary to do so.

My hon. Friend, Dr Ezera, I understand made an attack on the Parliamentary Secretaries.

An hon. Member : Who told you that.

The Minister of Finance : I was told and if I get him correctly. . . . (*Interruptions*).

Several hon. Members : That is hearsay.

The Minister of Finance : I hear, Mr Chairman, that this is hearsay. Thank God I am not giving evidence before any court.

Now, Sir, Parliamentary Secretaries appointed to different Ministers have their own responsibilities in the day to day running of the Ministries concerned, and in Parliament there are certain duties that by the Constitution only the Ministers concerned can perform. But no person will doubt the ability of our Parliamentary Secretaries. I think that one important point made really is that we the Ministers should try to give some of the less important business to our Parliamentary Secretaries to do because most of them are very capable and willing to work. I think that my colleagues will take that into consideration.

As regards the Refectory, I must say that I agree with hon. Members completely that the Refectory is being thronged by outsiders but there is nothing I can do. On one occasion I was invited by an hon. Member to go to the Refectory. Even members of the public prevent hon. Members from having their cups of tea and they even challenge Members. They say that it is public money. I do not know how far public money can be spent for the entire members of the public.

In any case I think I will appeal to the Clerk of the House to arrange with the undertakers that the stewards there have no supervision whatsoever and that they invite their friends even to come and have some pastimes here. That is my information and I think the Clerk of the House should warn the undertakers that if they are not going to do their job properly and know who are the Parliamentarians and then give them priority, at least, then we might as well consider cancelling their contract and ask other people to come and undertake it.

Now, Sir, I think the points made—(Interruptions).

An hon. Member : Parliamentary immunity.

The Minister of Finance : I think parliamentary immunity is very clear in our Constitution and—(Interruptions). I shall have to refer that to the hon. the Attorney-General. If it is necessary for any legislation to be brought on that score, he will consider it and try to bring it here.

I think, Sir, that these are the points I should reply to at the moment. I should say that I am very grateful to the hon. Members for their sincerity in tackling this question of increase in their salaries. There are certain things that should be above politics and we do not want newspapers supporting a political party to try to blow hot and cold—(Interruptions).

The Deputy Chairman : Order, order, I think so far we have been doing very well and I thought the Minister was winding up his speech. I implore hon. Members to kindly grant him further audience to wind up his speech.

The Minister of Finance : I am grateful to the hon. Chief Anthony Enahoro for being frank and sincere that no hon. Member here is worth less than £1,000 as salary a year. I say that with all sense of responsibility. Those of you who have your own private businesses know how much such businesses suffer when you are attending Parliament. Whether you attend Parliament for a month or so is no reason why the members of the public should feel that £1,000 is too much. This should not be made an avenue for criticising the Government and Parliament or an excuse to demand wage increases. Surely those of us who fought elections especially against people like Mr Briggs who changes his coat every now and again—(Interruptions) will appreciate what it is to fight such elections. Once again I really feel happy that the Members of the Opposition for once agree with all of us that the increase is necessary.

Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think I should support this Head by saying how happy I am that the new Speaker of this House deserves congratulations for his rapid success in handling the affairs of this Parliament. When he was elected there were speculations in various quarters. I am happy to say that he has lived up to our expectations. (Hear, hear).

This brings me to the position of the Deputy Speaker of this House. Members will know that in the Regions the Deputy Speaker and the Chief Whip are on a salary above that of a Parliamentary Secretary. Considering the prestige of his office, I think it will be right and proper that the salary of our own Deputy Speaker should be raised accordingly.

One other point I wish to speak upon is about Official Reporters. The Official Reporters deserve credit for their efficiency and accuracy in producing the numerous speeches made in this honourable House. Some of the speeches are audible and are listened to in silence others are inaudible due to low tones, shrill voices or unnecessary interruptions by professional hecklers especially from the other side of the House. The very fact that all the speeches are generally correctly reported is a very great credit to our Official Reporters. We should give them every encouragement

[MR UKAH]
both morally and financially to keep up the very high standard they have attained. (Applause).

On Sub-head 3—Office and General—I wish to speak of the conditions of parcels sent to Members after this House has adjourned *sine die*. I have often noted that some important documents reach us in tattered and open parcels; I think that this should be avoided. The office should see to it that careful packing is done and that strong packing papers and envelopes are used.

The last point I want to raise is about summons and official documents. Summons for the House of Parliaments and important documents such as Estimates and Supplementary Estimates should be forwarded early enough to enable Members send in Questions, Motions and Amendments in time. The present Estimates, for instance, reached us very late and I hope that this mistake will not recur.

I wish to wind up by saying that Whips do a lot of work in this House. Where many people stay here waiting for orders to come, the Whips go about, running up and down and telling Members to come in and, when there is a division, you see them moving to every nook and corner of this House and even in the Senate. I think it will be a very nice gesture if the salaries of Whips are increased.

With these few remarks, Mr Chairman, I wish to support.

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East): Mr Chairman, Sir, it seems to me that the Minister of Finance and the Leader of the House did not understand the point I made when I referred to Parliament in my speech. I made it quite clear, Sir, that if Parliament is to sit more often and Members are prepared to come here more often, we will support this increase. If we lay it open to the public to say that we sit only for 72 days, we cannot justify that increase. The Minister does not seem to have got that point.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Head—Parliament—and to say, Sir, that I am in full sympathy with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Dr Ezera about the question of raising the salary of the Leader of the Opposition. (Hear, hear). I am in full sympathy with him, Mr Chairman. He is a man who was

sure of being the Prime Minister! (Laughter). But, somehow, Sir, politics being what it is, the country did not consider him capable of leading the country and now he has to be the Leader of the Opposition! (Laughter). I think he should get some amount whether that will compensate him for the high hopes he was having. I am in full sympathy with the increase of his salary and I think that will compensate him; I have no objection to it, Mr Chairman.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South): On point of order, Mr Chairman. I think the hon. Alhaji Dandago should know that the Leader of the Opposition in this House has a sense of submission. He is not in politics for money in any angle and he has not earned a penny in this Parliament. (Interruptions).

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I think hon. Members should not make speeches on a point of order which they tried to raise.

Alhaji Bello Dandago: Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. Chief Enahoro mentioned that we do not work here. All that the hon. Member requires is a better pair of medical glasses; he seems to be using sun glasses. It is ridiculous. Sir, a Member tried to raise the point about where we take drinks, teas and coffee; the difficulty in that place is that we do not know those who are employed and those who are not; we do not know, Sir, the people who are really employed and it does not seem there is discipline there.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the cleanliness of Parliament is up to the standard. This place is not a permanent one, it will not be for ever, it is a temporary measure. Government has something gigantic in mind and, before very long, our Parliament will be second to none.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to make a point on the time allocated in the Standing Orders on Motions for Adjournments. We have only 15 minutes and I think that time limit is hopelessly inadequate. We need a minimum of 30 minutes for Motion for Adjournment. A matter which a Member may like to raise might take over ten or even 15 minutes to finish and, what is more, two, three, four or five Members may like to raise a matter.

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This applies also to the time for oral questions in the morning which is only 30 minutes. I think this also is inadequate. What is the use of Members putting down their names on the Order Paper to ask questions and will not be allowed to ask them? They will just find the answers, probably on the second or the third day in the *Hansard*. This does not afford us the opportunity of asking Supplementary Questions. If these questions were intended for written answers, Members could have put them down as such.

Furthermore, I seize this opportunity to inform the House that although the Leader of the Opposition is alleged not to be taking his salary, all the same he is earning salaries and allowances as the Prime Minister! (*Laughter*).

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East): I associate myself with others who have praised the activities of this Parliament, but as far as Questions are concerned, Sir, I would suggest that the time for Questions should be increased from 30 to 40 minutes. I say this because one of the most interesting periods of the Parliament is Question time and I would also agree that a Minister must show his skill by answering Supplementary Questions put by the Members of this House.

As far as frequent meetings are concerned, Mr Chairman, I would say that it will help this Parliament if the Opposition would kindly leave their tactics. Mr Chairman, Sir, if you examine the four weeks or so we have been here, you will find that only for a few days did the Leader of the Opposition and the most important person of the Front Bench of the Opposition attend the Meetings. (*Interruptions*). Mr Chairman, he is not the only one. A lot of them, like my friend Mr Briggs, are even worse. They do not attend the Meetings of this House. I do not feel that it will help the work of Parliament if the Opposition will not be serious with their work.

I support the suggestion that arrangement should be made, the Prime Minister should be willing to grant a period to the Leader of the Opposition and two others to go and study Parliamentary way of life.

The other point, Mr Deputy Chairman, is on the Bills. I humbly feel that the bills we pass in this Parliament should take longer time. They are important bills and we are resting our hopes on them. After the first reading, second

reading—to-day, third reading—to-day. (*Interruptions, interruptions*). I humbly suggest that the second reading of important bills should wait for subsequent meetings of Parliament.

Another point I want to suggest is the committee system of Parliament. I am suggesting that Parliament should be arranged on committee system. It would help Members of this Parliament. Mr Deputy Chairman, I feel there should be a committee of the Parliament to look into the conditions of service of the workers of this Parliament. If indeed there is going to be a self-accounting office of this Parliament, there should be a committee of the House to examine their conditions of service. The work of Parliament is a specialised work and if it is a specialised work, Mr Deputy Chairman, it needs a specialised way of paying the people who are doing the job. If you look at the Heads of the Estimates, you cannot say that this or that one is good or bad simply because you do not know exactly what their mates are earning elsewhere, whereas in Parliament, they are doing special duties. I humbly suggest that a committee of the House should look into this and examine their conditions of service and make recommendations to Parliament.

Mr Deputy Chairman, Sir, with that, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

£661,310 for Head 60—Parliament—agreed to.

HEAD 61—PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Question proposed, That £67,770 for Head 61—Public Service Commission—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East): Mr Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am not making my contribution to attack the work of the Public Service Commission but what I want to say is that this Commission is supposed to be independent. I would like it so but in effect, only people who are residing in Lagos or near in the Western Region have a fair share of employment in the Federal Public Service. Without being parochial in any way, I want to make special reference to the Lagos Town Council. There are brilliant lawyers practising in the Regions and yet they are not taken into consideration for appointment to posts in Town

[MR UKEGBU]
Council. When these appointment are being made those concerned should not confine their selection to Lagos. It is impossible for all the lawyers in the Federation to be practising in Lagos or in the Western Region. Therefore, those lawyers who are practising in the Regions deserve consideration. I am therefore going to suggest that those responsible for the appointment of Crown Counsel should take.....

The Deputy Chairman : I think the functions of the Public Service Commission are provided for in the Constitution and the exercise of their discretion is not open to Parliamentary debate.

Mr Ukegbu : Thank you, Mr Deputy Chairman. All I am saying is that this Parliament of course is entitled to make suggestions. I am saying that these people should tour the Regions and discover hidden talent of lawyers.

The Deputy Chairman : Order, order. I think if the hon. Member has anything in mind about the composition of the Civil Service, he could raise it under the Head of Establishments but to debate the exercise of discretion of the members of the Public Service Commission certainly would not be tolerated.

Mr Ukegbu : Thank you. Another point, Sir, I want to raise there is the question of promotion. Certain expatriate officers who are on the same grade as their Nigerian counterparts are given earlier promotion so that they may be senior officers to these Africans in the Civil Service. I have in mind the Ministry of Finance, Trade Division where a man—

The Deputy Chairman : Order, order. I think I have said it twice that the exercise of discretion, the sense of judgment of the members of the Public Service Commission should not be questioned on this Floor and if the hon. Member would persist in so doing, I would be obliged to invite him to resume his seat.

Mr Ukegbu : Thank you Mr Deputy Chairman. I think what I have said has been noted and I am satisfied.

Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North East) : Mr Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am quite aware that the functionary duties and the privileges of the

Public Service Commission are not allowed to be debated on the Floor of this House, But, Sir, I remember that when I was speaking on Establishments and Service Matters, and I mentioned appointments, the hon. the Minister of Establishments told me that that was only appropriate under the Public Service Commission because they made appointments. I was saying to the hon. the Minister of Establishments then that it would help him, Sir, and help the country as a whole if greater care was taken in selecting candidates who appear before the Public Service Commission for appointment because it definitely seems that a good number of round pegs do go into square holes. The people who ought to get the right jobs are for one reason or another sent out of the country to do some other job. Sometimes it appears that they are better fitted to come into top-posts in this country and advise the Ministers. These people should no longer be sent out of this country under some high-sounding names. Rather they should be given proper posts in this country.

Thank you very much.

Question put and agreed to.

£67,770 for Head 61—Public Service Commission—

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.16 p.m.

HEAD 62—CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT FUND

Question proposed, That £7,980,680 for Head 62—Contributions to the Development Fund—stand part of the Schedule

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very delighted to be given an opportunity to speak on this Head, and I wish to make a great deal of contribution to the system of development in the country. I have noticed that the Minister of Finance has introduced the money market into the country. Money market is a necessary ingredient of a capitalist economy: By making available government securities, by creating the Lagos Stock Exchange, the Government has provided the market place, and the commodity for money market. It is hoped, therefore, that private businessmen and firms will issue shares for the money market.

With the development of the money market, private and government investment propensity shall have been increased ; but, Sir, the history of this capitalist economy is replete with evidences which show that the greatest incentive to economic crisis or depression is the Stock Exchange. In fact, it is known that Stock Exchanges constitute the initiator of business depression. An example of how Stock Exchanges control the economy of a nation, and how they cause business crisis can be given by the experience of the United States of America during the presidency of Mr Eisenhower. On the morning following the announcement of the President's heart attack, there was a frantic rush for the sale of several securities.

The Chairman : Order, order ! Stock Exchange does not come under this Head.

Mr Ememe : I am discussing the economic development of the country.

In the morning following the announcement of the President's heart attack there was a frantic rush for the sale of several securities. The rush was engendered by the fear of the capitalists in the Stock Exchange in New York City that with the death of Mr Eisenhower, the Republican Party, which is the vanguard of American capitalism, would lose a national election to the Democratic Party which is more liberal in economic policies. Therefore, they thought that their investment was facing the risk of losing the heavy profits it previously enjoyed under the protection of the President. They felt that withdrawing their investments by selling out their shares and stocks would be the only remedy. Then the reaction which led to a business recession started. Stock Exchange therefore possesses a feature which militates against the growth of the economy. Besides, Stock Exchanges are used to deprive honest citizens of their hard-earned money through deceptive machinations of the financial crooks and double-dealers.

The Chairman : Order, order. I have told the hon. Member that he should not speak on the Stock Exchange. Would he please let me know on what sub-head he is speaking on Head 62 ?

Mr Ememe : I am speaking on the Head as a whole. I can see that the Economic Development of the country is involved in Head 62—

The Minister of Finance : On a point of order, Mr Chairman, this is surplus money of Government to be paid into the Development Fund. With respect, Sir, this is not the time for Members to discuss development generally. General development has been dealt with on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill. I think my hon. Friend is out of order, Sir.

The Chairman : And I think the hon. Member should direct his attention towards arguments for and against contributions to the Development Fund.

Mr Ememe : Mr Chairman, the only other thing I would like to say about this Head is that the development of the country has not been according to the socialist principles designed by our respective parties.

Mr W. J. Faleye (Ondo North East) : In the course of the Budget Speech, Mr Chairman, the Minister of Finance stressed the need for mobilising Nigerian domestic resources as well as importing overseas capital towards the industrial and agricultural development of this country.

The Chairman : Order, order. The hon. Member is repeating the mistake made by the previous speaker. You cannot speak on Economic Development under this Head.

£7,980,680 for Head 62—Contributions to the Development Fund—agreed to.

HEAD 63.—NON-STATUTORY
APROPRIATIONS OF REVENUE

£870,000 for Head 63—Non-Statutory Appropriations of Revenue—agreed to.

The Chairman then proceeded to put forthwith the Questions necessary to bring the Proceedings in Committee to a conclusion.

Question, That the Schedule, as amended, be the Schedule to the Bill, put and agreed to.

Postponed Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that in Clause 2, line 9, leave out 4 and insert 87.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that in Clause 2, line 10, leave out 80 and insert 60.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 3.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, I beg to move that in Clause 3, line 12 leave out 4 and insert 87.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that in Clause 3, line 13 leave out 80 and insert 60.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported with Amendments, read the third time and passed.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES

(House in Committee)

HEAD 601.—LOANS

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor-General to move that the expenditure from the Development Fund of Six Million, Two Hundred and Ninety-One Thousand and Thirty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1961-62, under Head 601—Loans, be approved.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Hon. Maitama Sule) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South-East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to make a short speech under this Head, and that is in respect of Lagos Town Planning. Under this we have—*Water Drainage, Suru-Lere ; L.E.D.B. staff quarters ; Central Area Rebuilding ; Suru-Lere Rehousing Scheme No. 2.* This morning, I made reference to the question of land scandal in Lagos and that is in respect of the Lagos Executive Development Board and I will seize this opportunity to develop the point further.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I am told the Secretary of the L.E.D.B. in person of Mr Olatunji Ajose-Adeogun has 7 plots of Government land and I have with me details of the land—

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : Point of Order, Mr Chairman. I do not think it is proper for an hon. Member to use the name of an employee of a certain organisation in this

House when that person is not here and has nobody to defend him. It is completely out of order.

The Chairman : Will the hon. Member please speak on loans.

Mr Akinjide : Mr Chairman, Sir, these loans which the Government obtain either locally or overseas are being spent in respect of the development of Lagos and reclaiming land. This land after reclamation is being distributed to members of the public and it is only fair that members of the public, who in the long run are going to pay this loan should have a fair share of this Government property. That is why, Mr Chairman, I want to make a detailed statement in respect of these particular plots which belong only to one man.

Now, Sir, my information is as follows : Plots 610 and 611 at Bombay Crescent, Apapa belong to this gentleman, so also is Plan No. 13766 also at Bombay Crescent, so also are Plots 391 and 392 at Itire Road Estate, Surulere, which is part of the L.E.D.B. development projects. Plot 391 is in the name of his wife while Plot 392 is in the name of his daughter. On Site 451, also belonging to him, there are two plots on Plans Numbers 9015 and 9114 at the Apapa Estate in the names of Olatunji Ajose-Adeogun and Akin Ajose-Adeogun of 6 Massey Square and Dr Doherty respectively ; making six plots. His wife also owns Plot 17 Rhodes Crescent, Apapa, where he stays at the moment and which is also part of the L.E.D.B. development schemes.

Out of all these plots, this gentleman has leased Plots 610 and 611 to a company known as Messrs Dys Trocca Ltd. for seven and a half years and this property is registered as No. 13/13/1170 in the Land Registry and Plot 457 has also been leased by him to the Century Mortgage Company Ltd., all for large sums of money. The particulars of all these plots, Mr Chairman, are in the Land Registry and in the L.T.C., and if even a public inquiry is instituted on the matter, I am ready to give evidence. I am saying this in all sense of responsibility and also as a lawyer. If I say it outside the Floor of this House he has the right to take me to court and I will assure him that my informant says he can support his case and all the particulars are in the Land Registry.

Now, Mr Chairman, I relate this example in support of my contention earlier this day that our criminal code should be amended, because when high officials of Government or corporations who are placed in positions of trust abuse their trust and acquire public property for their own benefit, I think that sort of thing is a first class scandal, and I urge this Government to order an inquiry into it. If they want I will support my case with facts. I submitted some details in the morning, and I have the originals here with me and the particulars are in the Land Registry. All these are the information supplied me.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): Mr Chairman, Sir, while I raised a point of order earlier on, it should not be construed that we on this side of the House connive at any evil conduct of anybody, be that person a civil servant or a Member of this House of any category, and we are not doing so. This has gone a long way to confirm the fact that, not only the particular gentleman concerned, but also many other people in positions of trust use their position to their own advantage.

This sort of thing is very rampant in Lagos and to some degree also in the Regions, but we on this side of the House deplore in no uncertain terms any civil servant employed by the Federal or Regional Governments or any local authority or Corporation who would use his position of trust to acquire either land or buildings or to influence employment.

We are not out to assassinate the character of anybody who is not in this House, but if the allegations are true, as I said the other day, corruption in any form is what this Government, in fact the whole country ought to fight. It is very disgraceful. I must say that I am in support of the last speaker. If all that is true, it is the duty of this Government, if it is worth its salt, to institute a commission of inquiry and get things straightened out.

It is not only a scandal to Lagos or to the Regions but a scandal also to all of us in Nigeria and something very disgraceful in the eyes of the outside world. We must stamp out bribery and corruption in any shape or form in this country.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I have nothing more to say but I am supporting my hon. Friend there that a commission of inquiry should be instituted forthwith by the Government to look

into these allegations.

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Izi South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments by the hon. Mr Akinjide and also by my hon. Friend, Mr Ekanem. In fact, I should like to see a commission of inquiry set up to investigate the matter.—

The Chairman: Order. Hon. Members should avoid repeating arguments used by other people.

Mr Ikeh: Well, Mr Chairman, I want to refer to sub-head 12, that is the big loan of £7 million to be made to the E.C.N. The E.C.N. has really done very much to improve the efficiency of electricity services, but I think that with this loan being granted to them the Corporation should take more initiative and know that in business enterprise there must be risk-taking.

For instance, in certain places the Corporation says that the undertaking is not paying and therefore there is no need to expand. Well, if this is the way the Corporation is doing its business it is not going to profit at all in the long run because in any enterprise there must be risk-taking. You must plan that in course of months or years you are going to make some profit.

I am speaking with special reference to Abakaliki township. Abakaliki is a big and growing township. The Corporation has installed bigger engines there to supply light throughout the town, but after the installation the Corporation could not get material to supply the potential consumers throughout the town. We have only very few people consuming electricity throughout the country, and so I am appealing to the Corporation to take some initiative and take more risks in expanding, because it is only risk-taking in any enterprise that will yield benefit in the long run.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, the points made by hon. Members are well taken and I do not see much in this. I therefore now move, that the Question be now put.

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

Original question put accordingly and agreed to.

£6,291,030 for Head 601—Loans—agreed to.

HEAD 602—HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the expenditure from the Development Fund of Four Million and Four Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1961-62, under Head 602—Highways and Bridges, be approved.

Question proposed.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, we have sub-head 30, Item 02—Ferries : general. I wish to take this opportunity to invite some explanation from the Minister of Transport concerning the Onitsha-Asaba ferry. Not long ago, new ferries were put into service. I think it was last week or earlier this week that we were told that all the ferries had broken down. When we were coming to Lagos, there was only one ferry in service and now there is none. I think there must be something wrong somewhere. With the supply of a new boat like that, a very powerful and new boat, people were happy that, after all, there was some quick and early solution to the traffic bottle-neck between Onitsha and Asaba. But to see that new ferries, bought at very high costs, have broken down within so short a time, is very distressing.

I must say that anybody who is familiar with the ferry service there will appreciate that any stoppage in service for even three hours will result in very great financial losses. Traders between the Eastern Region and the Western Region and Lagos make very heavy use of that service. I do hope that the Minister will offer some explanation and also some assurance that Members will not be frustrated at Asaba. As from to-night, many Members will be going away but it will be most unfortunate for them to get to Asaba and find that they cannot cross.

Sir, there is a ferry that leaves Asaba at 5 a.m. It goes from Onitsha to Asaba empty. There is no ticket seller on duty to issue tickets to intending travellers. I thought it was a matter of elementary commercial principle that it would, at least go to pay some part of the cost if vehicles were to be carried across at that time.

Finally, or I might say in conclusion, we need an assurance from the Minister of Works that we can go through Akure as we go home. I remember that somebody coming to Lagos last week had to do a detour of 60 to 100 miles. We appreciate that accidents do occur but we do hope that the fault is remedied.

Alhaji Aminu Tafida (Bingi Tangaza) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Head 602 whole heartedly and in doing so I should like to make a few observations. I have always congratulated the Minister of Works (and the rest of his Ministry) for his sense of duty, integrity, impartiality and intelligence. I hope I shall do the same this time.

In spite of the obvious efforts that are being made for the improvement of the Trunk A roads, still there is more room for further improvement. Improvements are urgently required for Trunk A 15 road which is the Katangora-Yelwa-Jega-Sokoto road. The part of this road, from Katangora to Yelwa, is not at all motorable by any small vehicle. Some of the existing old timber bridges are broken, culverts are bad and the centre of the road is much too high, in fact, it is about five inches higher than the wheel track and this can easily jack up any small car. I hope the hon. Minister will take quick action to see that this section of the road is improved.

Sir, I would also appeal to the hon. Minister to see that provision is made for bituminous surface in his next five-year programme. This road from Yelwa to Sokoto carries much heavy traffic and therefore bituminous surface is very essential.

Coming back to Trunk A 15 road, I would say that I was surprised and embarrassed when I could not see what was voted by the Federal Government for the improvement of the Funtua-Gusau road. There was a rumour that the Federal Government would soon give out contract for putting bituminous surface on this road, but to stop work at Bilbis on the Katsina-Sokoto provincial boundary, 37 miles to Gusau is bad. If that is so, I should like the hon. Minister to make a statement as to why Gusau has been deserted. In the Economic Commission Report A 15 and 19 are in the priority, but why then has this been deleted ?

Referring to A 15, I wish to point out to the hon. Minister that the Regional Government is about to complete the tarring work on the Jaredi-Argungu-Birnin Kebbi road. I wonder whether the Minister will find ways and means to tar the remaining 22 miles between Sokoto and Jaredi that are said to be part of the Trunk A 15 road.

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

Mr J. D. Odebunmi (Egba North): Mr Chairman, Sir, before supporting this Head, I should like to make a few observations. If one observes the steady progressive work that has been done on Trunk A roads one would certainly not hesitate to say a word of congratulation to the Minister of Works for such splendid work. I should like to say, however, that the bridge at Lafenwa which we greatly appreciate has been put up quite recently with a fair amount of money, but it still requires the attention of the Minister of Works.

It is always very bad during a heavy rain. When there is rain, Sir, the water overflows its banks including the bridge and one can safely invite the attention of fishermen to do their accredited job on the bridge. People passing through often get their clothes soiled with splashes of water.

The bridge is not good enough for the purpose it is meant to serve and I think that this is due to the fact that there was a rush in the construction of the bridge. It was not therefore properly completed before its official opening. Modern equipment could have been used in order to make it straight, strong and safe for use at any time of the year.

In addition to the bridges in our rural areas, Sir, most of our roads are very bad; they are crooked and narrow. This is particularly noticeable at about mile 70 or 75, I am not quite sure of the exact spot, on Lagos to Ibadan via Abeokuta road. This requires the immediate attention of the Minister of Works and Surveys.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R.A. Njoku): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to assure hon. Members that they will be able to cross the Niger and return to their homes safely. Recently one of the ferries was

damaged and the new large one was at that time being refitted. It has been undergoing the usual periodic overhauling and will soon be in service again. During the interval the Shell-BP have been kind enough to lend us one of their ferries. This one with the one from my Ministry are now in operation so that there are two ferries available now. To make assurance doubly sure a telegram has been sent from my Ministry which hon. Members will like to hear about. It is very short and it reads thus: " 'Immediate', Minister instructs that everything possible must be done to ensure that Members of Parliament returning from House Friday or Saturday are carried across Ferry promptly. Please ensure that responsible officer is especially charged with this assignment". (Applause).

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East): Mr Chairman, Sir, while supporting this Head 602. I have the following remarks to make. For the past six years the people from the East have been asking the Minister of Works and Surveys to relieve them of the fear which exists particularly at mile 60 and mile 62 on Onitsha to Aba road. There are two narrow bridges there which have taken a lot of lives and property, including motor cars and lorries which have been damaged beyond repair. Many lorries have hit one or the other of these bridges and fallen into the water. The Deputy Speaker can bear me out because he has a personal experience of what I am trying to say.

We have been asking this Government to be kind enough to expand these bridges, make them strong and safe enough for any user. The good Minister who is noted for his effectiveness always comes here and says, "Yes, we will see what we can do about it". I wonder if the Chairman can help me to find out from him or ask him to make a statement as to when the expansion of these bridges will be carried out.

Sir, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the expenditure from the Development Fund of £4,004,650 for Head 602—Capital Expenditure Estimates—Highways and Bridges—be approved.

HEAD 603—PUBLIC WORKS EXTRAORDINARY

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the expenditure from the Development Fund of £4,871,460 for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1961-62, under Head 603—Public Works Extraordinary, be approved.

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

Question proposed.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move to insert the following new item under sub-head 26 "Item 18 Frontier posts; Eastern Nigeria Border £99,370". I have to confirm that I have the Governor-General's recommendation to so move.

Amendment proposed.

Mr E. C. Akwiwu (Orlu South East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I support the addition, and would like to take this opportunity to say that the Police Barracks at Orlu want modernisation. We do hope that this will be given priority.

Question that the words proposed to be inserted be inserted, put and agreed to.

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move to increase item (17) of sub-head 31 by £80,000. I have also to confirm that I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor-General to so move.

Amendment proposed.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, we on this side of the House are in support of the increase. But I do not know why at this stage of our development when all Ministries are housed in reasonably modern buildings the Minister of Labour sits down feeling quite satisfied to have his offices in that place near the Soldier Barracks. The buildings of his Ministry are not suitable for such an important Ministry. It is a disgrace. We only hope that the Minister of Labour will use the £80,000 to erect a building befitting this important Ministry.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Original Question as amended put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of £5,050,830 for Head 603—Public Works Extraordinary—be approved, put and agreed to.

HEAD 604—CAPITAL : POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, Four Hundred and Ninety-Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1961-62, under Head 604—Capital : Posts and Telegraphs, be approved.

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

Question proposed.

Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla (Abuja) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to make my request to the hon. Minister of Communications that in Abuja we want an automatic telephone exchange, and in Lapai we want a post office and telecommunications facilities.

Mr J. O. Olaore (Oshun North East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, on several occasions Members have actually poured some encomiums on the Minister of Communications for the work being done in building post offices, and so on, and in making some improvements. But it appears that most of the work being done is being concentrated in one place.

In this particular instance, I will refer to item 18—Post Offices and Ancillary Buildings. It is a fact that in some towns the people deem it fit to build a post office by communal effort, but after building such a post office and the Minister of Communications is invited to come and open it, he invariably turns down such requests.

In this particular case, I have to refer to the request made by some people at Ajasa-Eko for him to come and open their post office which they built by communal effort. On that particular occasion the Minister was on his way and the people thought he was coming to open their post office. But when he got there, it seemed as if somebody prevailed on

him somehow and that post office was not opened. I would like to know from the Minister of Communications why this thing was not done.

As far as communication facilities are concerned, everybody is under the Federal Government. I therefore see no reason why some people should be so treated after they had taken the trouble to collect money and build a post office. I would like the Minister to give some explanation for this.

Mr J. U. Udenyi (Enyong North): Mr Chairman, Sir, this item is an important one and it must be given major consideration. Without easy communication this House will not run well. I say this because if a letter or a telegram is sent to a Member of this House to turn up for a meeting and he does not get it in time, it means that a quorum will not be formed.

There are 312 constituencies in the country and we ask that every constituency should be provided with a full post office. What I want to see is the implementation of what we have said in this House. There is no need coming here to address this House in a most academic manner without the requests being implemented.

With these few remarks, I support the Head

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central): Mr Chairman, in supporting this Head I have a simple remark to make. I am happy the Minister of Communications is here now. About this time last year, I made a strong appeal about the accounting system in respect of telephone bills. What one sees is, "On the 17th 18s-6d; on the 25th £1-5s-0d" without their stating the number of calls and the places to which the calls were made. That is very bad.

The Minister promised last year to look into this matter, but up till to-day nothing has been done. At least I represent 100,000 people and I can say how many people have surrendered their telephones on account of this system. Even in Lagos, I know how many people have surrendered their telephones, and it is making the Government to lose a lot of money. We cannot afford to be in Ilorin for three days a week and be charged £8 a quarter.

With this remark, I want the Minister to take note. It is now 12 months since I made this appeal and nothing has been done about it.

Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West): Last year I spoke about the post office in my town, Ekpoma. This post office was built out of communal labour. The post office was visited by many Comptrollers and they made good recommendations to the Ministry.

Last year the Minister defended himself when I spoke on this item, but up till now nothing has been done about it. There is nothing the Federal Government is going to do for many people. The West Regional Government has been able to provide my people in Ishan with every amenity that we require. We have not everything—water and hospital—

The Chairman: We are not discussing the activities of the West Regional Government.

Chief Dame-Oboh: It is only by giving us a post office that we will get to know that there is a Federal Government

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to take my seat.

Mr I. O. Chikelu (Udi Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very happy to be given the opportunity of speaking on the Capital Estimates. It is my contention that a number of new post offices are being approved, and I have often brought it to the knowledge of this House that my constituency requires a post office. It is a very big area. I hope the Minister concerned will take note of it this time and serve my people.

This is a plea for the rural areas. Many of us stand up here and ask the Council of Ministers to think more of the rural areas than of Lagos itself. This question of telecommunications is more important than anything else. As other Members have said, we need to get our letters and telegrams in time. We need to get telephones and be able to communicate with our friends in other places. If these things are done, the people of these areas will get happier and will enjoy more of the fruits of independence.

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

M. Isa Iko (Zuru): I rise to remind the Minister of Communications that since 1959 a post office was built in Zuru but, up till now, telephone and telegraph services have not been provided there. That is all.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, Four Hundred and Ninety-Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1961-62, under Head 604—Capital : Posts and Telegraphs—be approved.

HEAD 605.—OTHER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the expenditure from the Development Fund of Sixteen Million, One hundred and forty-two thousand, Seven hundred and eighty pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1961-62, under Head 605—Other Capital Expenditure, be approved.

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

Question proposed.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I have it in command from His Excellency, The Governor-General, to move to increase Item 03 of Sub-head 02 by £102,770.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Main Question put and agreed to.

Question, That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of £16,245,550 for Head 603—Other Capital Expenditure—be approved, put and agreed to.

HEAD 606.—LOANS ON-LENT AND EXTERNAL GRANTS TO REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the expenditure from the Development Fund of Three Million, One hundred and Ten thousand, Four hundred and Sixty pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1961-62, under Head 606—Loans On-Lent and External Grants to Regional Governments—be approved.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of £3,110,460 for Head 606—Loans On-Lent and External Grants to Regional Governments—be approved.

Resolutions to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

The Minister of Finance : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to report the resolutions from Committee with amendments and I ask the House to confirm the said resolutions.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolutions.

DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Minister of Finance : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, That this House approves the transfer into the Development Fund of the balance in the Consolidated Revenue Fund in excess of Eight Million Five Hundred Thousand Pounds as at the close of business on the 31st day of March, 1961.

The Minister of Transport : Sir, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House approved the transfer into the Development Fund of the balance in the Consolidated Revenue Fund in excess of £8,500,000 as at the close of business on the 31st day of March, 1961.

STANDING ORDERS

The Minister of Finance : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move, That the existing Standing Orders be revoked, and the Standing Orders contained in the Draft, a copy of which was laid before this House on the 18th April, be the Standing Orders of this House.

Sir, existing Standing Orders, as hon Members no doubt are aware, need revision to conform with our present Constitution. This has been done in the draft in the hands of hon. Members, and opportunity has been taken to include amendments necessary to bring the Standing Orders up to date. I need not say more, since the proposed revised Orders will stand referred to the Standing Orders Committee who will make a report to the House in due course.

Sir, I beg to move.

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

Mr Speaker : The Motion now is standing with the Standing Orders Committee in pursuance of Standing Order 54 (2).

SECOND INTERNATIONAL TIN AGREEMENT

The Minister of Finance : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House approves the participation of Nigeria in the Second International Tin Agreement in accordance with the terms of the Government White Paper (Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1961), and agrees that a sum not exceeding half a million pounds should be set aside for the purposes stated in the White Paper.

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

Question proposed.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, we are not at all in the least opposed to this contribution, but I want to—

Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West) : On a point of order, Sir. We have taken a decision on it, Sir, so, allowing Mr Ekanem to speak on it is drawing us back.

Mr Speaker : The question has not been fully put.

Mr Ekanem : I want to say that this matter deals with the Minesfield and I happened to be a member of the International Tin Agreement at one time and in the Minesfield you have two categories of miners—the expatriate miner and the African miner.

Now, there has been discrimination in the export quota with the result that even though the African miners mine this mineral, what the exporter allows them is very, very low. I think a time will come, although the Government does not appear to agree with us on this side of the House, to nationalise this industry.

I hope greater help will be given to the African miners. On the question of the Agreement, or whatever will be done with this money, or anything that will be in the way of conferences, I am appealing to the Government to consider the necessity and the advisability of allowing a representation from the African Miners Association. Even though there is an African Miners' Association, Africans are not given the effective hearing that they ought to be given, and it will be a waste of money if this Government throws its money

into this Agreement and the money goes to benefit only expatriates.

I appeal to the Government once again, Sir, that African miners in the Minesfield should be given a hearing and should be made to go to any conference which will discuss anything affecting tin mining in this country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I said before, I am not opposed to this motion. I, therefore, accordingly support.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House approves the participation of Nigeria in the Second International Tin Agreement in accordance with the terms of the Government White Paper (Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1961), and agrees that a sum not exceeding half a million pounds should be set aside for the purposes stated in the White Paper.

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, 1961-70

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name : That this House approves the Federal Government's proposals for educational development as set out in the White Paper on Educational Development 1961-70 (Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1961).

When I spoke on the Appropriation Bill I asked the House to review the contribution made by the Federal Government to the education of our people in the planning period which is now drawing to a close. I said that later during the meeting there would be an opportunity to consider our plans for the future. That time has now come.

Our proposals have been set out in the White Paper which was tabled yesterday. Hon. Members will have had very little time in which to study this paper ; but it is not very long, and much of what it contains should by now be fairly familiar ; for the proposals are based on the recommendations of the Ashby Commission whose invaluable Report was tabled in this House last September.

The White Paper sets out our plans in more detail and I will confine myself now to explaining the principles that lie behind the divergencies we have made from the recommendations of the Ashby Commission. Our amendments have been made with two principal purposes in view.

[THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION]

Firstly, to rectify as much as possible the geographical imbalance in the educational development of the country, and secondly, to accelerate the rate of manpower development in the Federation as a whole so that our country may not lag too far behind the more advanced countries of the world. We have found the ideas behind the Ashby Commission's Report entirely acceptable, but we would like to see in their implementation the observance of some additional principles.

Firstly, the man-power targets set by the Commission are to be regarded as minimum and planning and implementation must be carried out with a view to securing substantial increases in performance. Secondly, the Federal Government wishes to do everything possible to intensify the rate of educational development in the Northern Region so that by 1970 there will only be one educational pyramid in the country as a whole. It is not politically healthy that the education of people in one Region should lag too far behind the others. (*Hear, hear.*)

Thirdly, the Federal Government intends to promote, throughout the Federation, a diversified and expanded system of secondary education. This will give increased emphasis to scientific, technical, agricultural and commercial education and Federal support will be given especially for sixth-form work; for this is a level of education which is particularly important as the gateway to university studies.

Fourthly, special emphasis must be laid on the expansion of facilities for agricultural and veterinary education at all levels, for agriculture is the basis of our wealth and the principal foundation for national prosperity.

Finally, as regards university education, the Federal Government considers that the minimum number of university students at which we should aim in 1970 as suggested by the Ashby Commission is too low. Instead of 7,500 students we should aim at 10,000 as a minimum. Accordingly there will be room for more than the four universities on which the Commission suggests we should concentrate, and it is our view that there is a useful place for the University of Ife to take in addition to those of Lagos and Ibadan, the University of the North and the University of Nigeria at Nsukka and Enugu.

As hon. Members will have noted from paragraph 18 of the White Paper, a lot of work has been done on the detailed planning necessary to carry the ideas of the Ashby Commission into effect. The implications of their recommendations have been worked out year by year and Region by Region from the present time until 1970. An assessment of costs, both capital and recurrent and of the physical resources, has been made in consultation with Regional and Federal Ministries of Education.

The more ambitious targets which have been set by the Federal Government after taking into account the views of Regional Government will entail a somewhat greater expenditure than that involved in the recommendations of the Ashby Commission. We are, however, confident that the nation will not flinch in tackling the great task that lies before us. In the past we have made sacrifices for education, for ourselves and for our children, and I feel sure that the same support will continue to be shown by our people to-day and for as long as may be necessary in order to bring this crash programme of assault on ignorance and educational backwardness to a successful conclusion.

We shall need much help from our friends overseas in Governments and other organisations. In the past they have shown an understanding of our difficulties and have given much practical help. We hope that they too will be inspired by the immensity of the effort that we intend to make ourselves and will greatly increase their own contributions to our efforts both in money and in experts. For our part we shall ensure that such assistance is promptly mobilised in our own programmes. I exhort the hon. Members of this House, on their return to their constituencies, to do everything possible to imbue the people of their districts with a sense of urgency. I also have to ask them to give leadership in this national struggle of investment in education so that generations to come may look back on this time as the birth of a modern nation in Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move. (*Applause.*)

The Minister of Mines and Power
(Hon. Maitama Sule): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

opportunity to say a few words on the department of Antiquities. I had some discussion with the Minister of Education and I am happy that he realises the importance that should be attached to this department. Of late there have been serious complaints by

Mr Speaker : I think this subject is now on Antiquities.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, there is no doubt that the Ashby Report will go down in history as one of

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Question proposed.

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in speaking on this Motion, I have to congratulate very sincerely the Government, and particularly the Minister of Education—(Hear, hear)—and particularly I have to congratulate the Minister of Education for the foresight in establishing the Ashby Commission which has produced this noble Report.

If I may digress a little bit, Sir, the Minister of Education should be praised for his humility and nobility of mind and sincerity of purpose. (Hear, hear).

All sides of this House, of course, agree that he is a great asset to this country. I have congratulated the Government from the bottom of my heart because the Report of the Ashby Commission has evoked not only national interest but world-wide interest. Anybody who cares to go through the Report of the Commission will find out that this Report is a product of a tripartite venture composed of Nigerians, the Britishers, and the Americans

I have gone through it myself very thoroughly and had been looking forward most eagerly to the day when the Government would accept the recommendations of this Commission. I am happy that the day has come and that the White Paper has been offered to us. I would have preferred a more detailed debate on it but I am sure that everybody will agree that the recommendations which have been accepted by the Government are in fact very sound and to the best interest of this country.

Sir, the most interesting aspect of this Report, from my own point of view, is the recommendation for establishing four Universities. One in the North, one in Lagos and one in the East, and now, another one is coming up in the West. (Interruptions).

Now, the most delicate aspect of this Report, Sir, is the recommendation that, for the smooth running of the academic life of this country and for the co-ordination of efforts the present Technical Colleges in the Regions should be merged with the existing Universities in those Regions. I think this is a very bold step. The Technical Colleges as they are would have been all right by themselves but in fact that they duplicated the efforts of sixth form schools in the provinces and in Lagos in the sense that they prepare students largely for G.C.E. The institutions have become the

dumping ground of what one might call ex colonial administrators who found their way here and relegated Nigerians to the background.

I am very happy, Sir, that the Government has now accepted that the Nigerian College, Enugu branch should be assimilated, integrated with the University of Nigeria at Nsukka and that the Nigerian College at Zaria, similarly, with its functionaries should be assimilated with the University of the North. The original recommendation was that the Nigerian College at Ibadan should be assimilated with the University College Ibadan, but the Government while agreeing in principle with this recommendation have decided that the Nigerian College at Ibadan will be assimilated not with the University, Ibadan, but with the University of Ife. This is in order because if you allow the Nigerian College at Enugu to be assimilated to the University at Nsukka; and if you also allow that of the North to be assimilated to the University of the North, surely, one would expect that the Nigerian College in the West also should be assimilated to the University at Ife. But, Sir, my Friends will agree that the Nigerian College, Ibadan is so close to the University College, Ibadan, barely one hundred yards apart; the buildings, in fact, have almost contracted to about a hundred yards. One would have thought that the most practicable thing to do would be to assimilate the Nigerian College, Ibadan branch to the University College, Ibadan—

Several hon. Members : Yes.

Dr Ezera : And then compensate the University of Ife, in cash to the same amount to avoid any injustice. But when you allow the Nigerian College, Ibadan, which is so close to the University College, Ibadan physically to be attached to the University of Ife, one would have thought that the best thing was to allow the University College, Ibadan take over the Nigerian College, Ibadan and then compensate the University of Ife in cash to the tune of the same amount. (interruptions).

The question of staff, it seems to me, Sir, does not arise because, I am sure though the details are not set out here, the staff of the Nigerian College will not automatically be the staff of the University. Now, we think that the best thing to do would be to allow those members of the Nigerian College staff who are qualified to teach in the University to

[MR UKEGBU]
degree, we shall be able to see that the estimation of the Commission and of the White Paper on it would have been considerably exceeded.

I know, Sir, that there is a proposal for four Universities but already the Western Region Government is going ahead with its plan for a fifth University. I will not be surprised if the Eastern Region one way or the other comes again with a second University. Sir, one other aspect of the Report which needs our commendation is the determination of the Federal Government to assist still stronger the Secondary schools. This has been in my mind for some time.

It has been in my mind for some time, Sir, that even though primary and post-primary education outside Lagos are the responsibilities of the Regional Governments, the Federal Government as well needs high level man-power to man its services, and you get this High level man-power out of the young men and women who have attended post-secondary courses; therefore, there is no moral justification for the Federal Government to refuse to assist the *sixth-formers* in the Regions. However, now that they have accepted this responsibility, we hope that they will go forward and accomplish it as quickly as possible. With little financial assistance, Sir, there is no reason why all secondary schools in the Regions and in Lagos should not be able to recruit staff overseas and put up the necessary additional buildings to provide the sixth form facilities in their schools.

Now, the last point I want to mention as contained in the Report, and which I wish to recommend to the Minister of Education, is that the expanded programme of scholarship awards, that is of post-secondary and post-graduate scholarship awards, should be pursued very vigorously. In saying that I have one point to make which is that there is no reason why young men and women who are awarded scholarship should not be asked, on qualifying, to repay without interest the money that has been spent on their education.

Several hon. Members : No, no, no !

Mr Speaker : Order, order.

Mr Ukegbu : I am convinced of this, Sir, and it has been burning in my mind. There

is no reason why we should not establish a revolving scholarship fund in this country of ours. There is no reason why £500 should be spent *per annum* for three years on a young man or a young woman only to provide him or her with a luxurious living. When he comes out from the university, and he obtains employment he gets an advance to purchase a motor vehicle, and he is paid so much additional money as basic allowance that he does not remember that he is a member of a country which is very backward. He spends his money on beer, or on this or on that. (*Laughter*).

The Minister of Finance made a point about this in his Budget Speech, and I cannot agree more with him. One of the most effective ways of controlling these things is when a young man or woman obtains a scholarship, let him or her repay the money that has been spent on his education.

Several hon. Members : No, no, no ! (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order, order.

Mr Ukegbu : Let me say, Sir, that the implementation of this Report, particularly in regard to expenditure on scholarships and so on, will involve the Government in an expenditure of up to about £75,000,000. I want to say, Sir, and I am sure I am speaking the minds of many people, that if loan scholarships were made available to intelligent young men and women in this country, they would be very well prepared to accept it. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order. The reporters are finding it difficult to record the speech made by the hon. Member due to interruptions. I do hope that Members would refrain from these unnecessary interruptions.

Mr Ukegbu : If I should make only this point, I should be very much satisfied because the Government is only able to give a limited number of scholarships every year, and since this accelerated scholarship scheme started in 1951, I am sure Government has spent several hundreds of thousands of pounds.

I would refer to a point which is very, very important, Sir. I remember that in the first part of the auto-biography of Chief Awolowo, he states that he was going from place to place to find somebody who would finance his educa-

tion so that when he came back he would repay this amount. I am sure, Sir, that there are many people who are prepared to obtain a loan scholarship free of interest and when they come back, instead of them to drive in luxury cars, drink beer, go to night clubs, they will be prepared to save the money, pay it back to the national coffers, and it will be used in giving more scholarships to other people. (*Hear, hear*).

The last point I want to make, Sir, is that in the Report and in the White Paper, emphasis had been placed on the study of African languages and culture. Now, we have read several books in anthropology, in language, in history and in geography not written by Nigerians, but written by expatriates. With the best of will in the world, with the best of preparation, these people cannot give the right perspective of the life of the Africans in this part of the world. I should, therefore, like to suggest that an accelerated scheme of post-graduate scholarships be made available to Nigerians who are prepared to do research work in our languages, life and culture, so that we should have the opportunity of presenting ourselves to the outside world as we actually are. This is a point, Sir, which I want to emphasize very, very much and I think that the hon. Minister of Education will take it well.

The last point I want to make is that in the curricula of these new universities, very great emphasis should be placed on science education. It is very easy for men and women to pass their B.A. History or B.Sc. Economics outside of the universities; but it is almost impossible for a man to stay outside the university and pass his Bachelor of Science. Therefore, more attention and more money should be spent on the faculty of science than in other faculties of the proposed universities. And so, Sir, I support.

Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, may I say by way of remark that this country of ours will be cutting her nose to spite her face if we were to say that we are short of men to serve the country and we want to train them in large numbers and by training them we train them by plunging them into debt. I am sure, Sir, that no sensible young man who has any hope for any future will say that because he wants to serve his country, he is therefore prepared to get into an eternal debt. I think, Sir, that it is definitely out of

the way of the plans which are contained in the Ashby Report and in this White Paper—to use the language of my hon. Friend—to introduce the accelerated programme for man-power scholarships on a loan basis.

I am very happy that the Minister of Education has brought in this Paper at a time when we can say one or two things about it. I was discussing this with him this morning. At page 6, paragraph 3, which is all about Teacher Training, I think there is one conspicuous omission. This Paper at the opening did say that it had had as its greatest guide everything that the Ashby Commission has asked for, and that in principle the Government has agreed with it. I think, therefore that it is an omission that there is no mention made about the teaching profession, *per se*.

Our young men and women even up till to-day, even those who are graduates, make the teaching profession a passport and just a platform, and when they have a better job, they get away from it. The point does not concern salaries alone; it has a great deal to do with the value which the public places on the teaching profession. I understand that up till now, the teaching profession is not in the registered professions list. No man who wants to serve as greatly as a teacher does, would like to feel that what he is doing is not given the proper recognition. I think, Sir, that one of the first things every Government in this Federation should do is to give proper credit and accreditation to the teaching profession.

Side by side with that I want to emphasize another point which I think is missing. While we are trying to get on our scheme for the production of manpower, the pay of teachers should be commensurate with other jobs in the country. A man should feel that apart from the service he is giving to the country, he is definitely on a comparative standard and scale with his fellow who is doing administrative work elsewhere and who has the same qualification as he has. That will give him the satisfaction, the pleasure, the freedom of mind to do the best that he can for the country. I therefore think that the great gap which exists between the graduate teacher and his fellow in the administrative service or a non-graduate teacher and his fellow who is in the executive grade, or whatever similar grade of

[MR AKOMOLAFE]
the Public Service, should be very greatly levelled off or possibly, should be completely levelled off.

The Minister of Education : May I refer the hon. Gentleman to paragraph 33 at page 6, the last two sentences : "After training, they must be paid at rates attractive enough to enhance their sense of vocation and arrest their exodus into the administrative service. Accordingly, Government will welcome a review of teachers salaries by a federation-wide committee".

Mr Akomolafe : Thank you very much. That is a wise saying, but I thought it needs to be more definite than it is there and now that the Minister tells me that he has that in mind, I am perfectly satisfied.

Now, Sir, at page 8, paragraph 56, where you have under the Administration of the Universities 'Inter-Regional Manpower Board'—that is a very welcome scheme. I have said twice already in this Session that the trouble in this country is that our planning is not a national scheme. Each Region has its own planning and keeps to it in isolation; and yet all these services overlap one way or another. Not only that, each Ministry thinks of its own planning and possibly they have some sort of an in-service scheme, and they jubilate on whatever little success they have achieved from that. That does not carry us anywhere.

Therefore, if this Inter-Regional Manpower Board will be such as will establish a country-wide and a national planning scheme whereby it will be the duty of such a Board to advise the Government of the Federation on the type of material which we need just now, section by section, on the technological side for example, our need for say civil engineering, for electrical engineering, for mechanical engineering and so on, and then on the administrative side, or our need for economists and so forth, then we will come down to a definite planning of how many of these we need in each section, and how such a need should be met over years? We might find out what are the present possibilities and how such possibilities should be expanded, what new schemes have to come on? When this planning has been done by whatever name you give the experts who do it, they can then

be forwarded to a political overall body which is to determine the practicability or the expediency of it. I think it is then, in my own mind, that the Inter-Regional Manpower Board will be doing this work efficiently.

It will not be sufficient, Mr Speaker, for the Manpower Board to comprise a few men from one Region, a few from another Region and they just sit down and make certain plans with the Ministers sitting by them.

I believe that if we have this Inter-Regional Manpower Board as a permanent establishment whose job will be to consider the needs of the country, to work day by day on how we can meet these needs and to submit their scheme to a Council of Ministers or Advisory Council to the Ministers and they can always refer questions back to this Inter-Regional Manpower Board, that is, a planning committee or a planning board or whatever it is, I think then, Sir, that it will be easier for us.

A good number of countries in this world have done that, and they have got results for it. Japan did it and I think that if I get my facts right, Japan has plans to produce about 430,000 graduates every year. If I also get my figures right, I think that by 1970, the United States of America will produce about a million technologists every year. A good number of countries as you can see, have done this thing and so whatever name you give to your Board, whether it is a National Advisory Planning Committee or Inter-Regional Manpower Board, let it be a standing committee. Let it be its day to day job to make these plans on a country-wide basis, and let it submit its scheme to a political body which will consider it and which will work out the possibility of such a scheme.

Now, Sir, my next point is about the universities. I have my fear, and I think the Minister of Education will be able to allay such a fear, that these universities will form some sort of academic isolation somehow. It is quite likely that under this arrangement, while Ibadan or Nsukka or Ife or Kano wherever be the headquarters of the university of the North, determines to do engineering and Ibadan to continue to do some engineering and Nsukka if they continue some law and this or that, what we shall find is that they will be able to produce 200 or 300 of whatever type. Perhaps if there can be a sort of arrangement

through the National Universities Commission it will be possible according to the environment, according to the staff available and according to the equipment, to put in particular places what faculties are most suited to them and to produce them in the greatest numbers according to the need of the country. (*Applause*).

If we do not do that, Sir, we shall definitely be losing. That is why I feel that the National Universities Commission needs to get down to work before any Region finalises its own arrangements for its own university so that the country may be able to work together for the common good of us all. This thing will bring us to the point that when it comes to the financing of these universities the Federal Government will have to play a very large part, possibly much better than is contained at page 9 of this programme. For really if we decide on a national basis that these Universities are going to produce the faculties for which they are best fitted for the needs of this country we must, to a great extent, be ready to meet their finances, and while they will be completely autonomous in planning their work or their finances, we should be prepared to give them all the finances they need, since they will be serving this country.

Finally, Sir, my question to the Minister of Education will be: How soon will these schemes be brought to realisation?

Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am happy to speak on this programme. I think everybody will agree that the Ashby Report is indeed the most progressive programme ever made in the realm of education in this country, and I think that by the year 1970, if the Report is carried out well, this country will have an entirely new face. I have every hope that the Report will be carried out well.

One of the points that convinces me that the Report will be carried out well is that the Government of the Federation and the Regional Governments have all seen the necessity for improving the staff at various levels of education. In the primary schools they have acknowledged the grave shortage of qualified teachers. The same thing applies to the secondary as well as to the university levels.

One important question which the various Ministries will have to answer for themselves is: What is exactly the cause of this great

shortage? When the question is answered the shortage will cease to exist. It is easy to see that at present the teaching profession seems to be a stepping stone to other professions. That is because there is frustration among the teachers. There does not seem to be any hope for the future.

Unlike other professions, there is no question of pension, no question of overtime allowance and no attraction whatever.

Having realised this problem the Governments will do very well to carry out one of the recommendations of Ashby and that is that training of teachers should be intensified. That is the first point. Secondly, after training, the teachers must be paid at rates attractive enough to enhance their sense of vocation and to arrest their exodus into the administrative services.

Now, this can only be done if the Government carries out exactly a Federation-wide revision of teachers' salaries. Now, really, I do not think that the solution lies in merely revising the salaries. They have also to bring in such things as pensions, no matter how small, to reach the bulk of teachers. A business where there is no security for the future cannot attract anybody and I should think that this ought to be carried out in such a way that the teachers would be in the know.

I come to the scholarships programme. I do not quite share the opinion that scholarship holders should be made to refund all the amount spent on their training. They should not fully refund because I am quite sure that, when you calculate the total amount spent for the training of anybody and you ask him to repay, it might create some sense of fear in his mind and that, I think, would reflect adversely on his studies. I feel sure that we train people for some purpose and these people whom we train pay in one way or the other, not necessarily in cash. I am sure that the very fact that they train other people or enhance the prestige and efficiency of our Civil Service is enough reward. (*Hear, hear.*)

I am bound to praise what I feel deserves praise. I wish to praise, on this very point, the Minister of Education. Everybody knows that scholarship schemes have always drawn adverse criticisms, not only from the Opposition but from different sections, but in regard to the present Minister of Education I think I have

[MR UKAH]
the assurance and the support of the other Members when I say that the Minister is, as far as his Education programme and scholarship awards are concerned, a very clean man. (*Hear, hear.*)

I certainly recommend this scheme and ask Government, when implementing the Ashby Report, to think seriously of the builders of our nation, the teachers who train our children. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, concerning this White Paper on higher education, I wish to comment on the University of Ife.

I feel we should not encourage the Federal Government to give them any money, because other Regions have tried on their own to have a University at their own expense. Their brothers here in this House are accusing the Government of raising tax and of borrowing money abroad. If they want the world to know that this Government is leading the country into a state of borrowing, why should we give money to them out of the money we have borrowed from elsewhere? (*Laughter.*) (*Hear, hear.*)

As I said, Mr Speaker, in one of my speeches yesterday, I think the Western Government are clever, in a way. They quickly shifted their proposed University from Ikeja to Ife because they know that when we expand the Lagos boundary—(*Laughter.*)

Mr Speaker, as I am not used to long speeches my recommendation is that we should leave them on their own. (*Laughter.*)

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Mr Speaker, Sir, from this Report, I have come to agree to what is being said about politicians that talking is their business. Apart from that, I could not have stood up to reply, because most of the points they have made are points made as suggestions as to the implementation of the White Paper which I have presented. The parent Report, which is the Ashby Report on "Investment on Education" has had world-wide reception, and I am happy that this Sessional Paper, like its elder brother, has received very good reception in this House.

I would only like to correct one impression, and that is the point made by hon. Ukah, that loan scholarships should be encouraged.

We do not want to encourage loan scholarship, because at present we have an outstanding sum of £25,000; and this sum is now a bad debt. It is not even a doubtful debt; it cannot be recovered.

Several hon. Members : Why, why?

The Minister of Education : Because the money is too much, and it would be a very unwise thing to do, Sir, to have a student coming out of a University debt-ridden. We are not helping him, if that is his position before he comes back from the University.

Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East): I did not say such a thing, Sir; it was Mr Ukaegbu who said it.

The Minister of Education : I am sorry, it was Mr Ukaegbu, and I have only to add "gbu" to the word "Ukae". Mr Ukaegbu also said that he was not satisfied with the way our scholarship award is being accelerated. I think he is advocating for a break-neck acceleration. He does not know that Government has done a great thing by raising the scholarship award from 180 to 540. I think that if the other Governments borrow a leaf from the Federal Government, the type of acceleration he wants can be achieved.

The nation builders who are teachers are not forgotten in any sense because Government has set up.....

Mr B. Ukaegbu (Owerri South East): On a point of explanation, Sir, I did not say that scholarship should not be accelerated. I said that it should be accelerated, but the people concerned should be made to refund.

The Minister of Education : The point I am making is that the type of acceleration the hon. Member is advocating is already in force. We have increased the scholarship awards from 180 to 540, and I think that is a fairly good acceleration.

I was saying, Sir, that the builders of the nation, who are teachers, are not going to be forgotten. Government is as interested in their case as Members of this House are, and we have set out their conditions in this White Paper, that when they are trained, they will be paid salaries which will be so attractive that they will not have to use the teaching profession as a stepping stone to the administrative service.

I have to thank Members for the points they have made.

An hon. Member : How soon will the Report be implemented ?

The Minister of Education : As soon as money is available.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House approves the Federal Government's proposals for educational development as set out in the White Paper on Educational Development, 1961-70 (Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1961).

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn sine die (The Minister of Commerce and Industry).

Oil Industry

Mr K. Giadom (Ogoni West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the bold explanation the Minister of Mines and Power gave on the Government's attitude towards my Motion on the 18th of this month. While I do this, I would humbly put it to the Minister to take note that we have to face facts in the shaping of our history.

We have to learn from experience, and as we can see from other countries of the world where oil has been discovered, there have been disturbances, and we do not want anything like that in our country ; and as such we want to forestall any eventuality. I am asking the Minister to please make a statement here or give us an assurance that he will be interested in those areas concerned, and if possible, make a tour of the areas in order to get first-hand information from the owners of the land where this crude oil is being discovered, know their problems and then see the possibility of discussing with the Regional Government to see what they can do to help the people in these special areas who produce this oil, so that they can be satisfied, and then to report to us in this House.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Hon. M. Maitama Sule) : Sir, the oil industry is a very complicated industry anywhere in the world, and I have always been keeping a very vigilant eye on this industry, and have always been in touch with similar industries in other parts of the world.

I am in sympathy with the hon. Member, and I do assure him that when the time comes, I will undertake a tour of these areas where oil is produced, and when I do go there, I will consult the hon. Member, and if it is possible I may take him around so that I may see the areas myself and having done that, I will then consider exploring the possibility and advisability of implementing his suggestions.

Owerintta Bridge

Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East) : On the Motion of Adjournment, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Works and Surveys to the condition of the Owerintta Bridge now under construction.

In the past, this bridge had often collapsed soon after it was reconstructed. Now it is said that a burnt child dreads fire, and people have begun to ask questions about the new bridge. To a layman in civil engineering, everything may seem to be going on well but in the interest and the safety of the thousands who will use the bridge, particularly the pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, I am requesting the Minister of Works and Surveys to give an assurance that this new bridge will be solidly constructed and that it will not collapse easily like its predecessors.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Inua Wada) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I can give the hon. Member the assurance he requires.

Newspaper Advertisement

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : Sir, I want to call the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to a very ugly development which is taking firm root in our daily newspapers in Nigeria, and that is in connection with the technique of advertising. I believe that if one looks into our newspapers in Nigeria, one will see things like this : "Cars for sale, European owned, European driven", or "Wanted, Confidential Secretary, European", or "Flat for European use". I think, Sir, that this is imperialism coming back into this country by the back door, and I am wondering how an average Nigerian citizen would feel after reading such advertisements like "Cars used in Aba, Abakaliki, or Ede, or Shagamu or Nsukka or Ife, and so on".

I think this is very insulting to the people

[DR NZERIBE]

of Nigeria and I would like the Minister of Commerce and Industry to make a statement about it.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zana the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am in complete sympathy with the mover of this Motion and I deprecate the implication that things European are necessarily better than things Nigerian. Often things Nigerian are superior to things European.

However, I hope the hon. Member knows that the control of advertisements is limited to prohibition of obscene publications. Much as the advertisement complained of is undesirable, it is certainly not obscene and, therefore, does not come within publications which could be banned by Government.

Nevertheless, Members of this House can do a lot to correct this undesirable practice, and I feel certain that making known their disapproval of the kind of advertisement here referred to would go a long way to putting it across to such a person as practise it.

If as a result of this short debate the gentlemen of the Press take note of the temper of the country as reflected by its representatives in this Parliament, I have no doubt that they can take steps to see that advertisements submitted to them for publication are worded in a manner that does not cast any reflection on the dignity of Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East): On point of information, Sir, I do not know if the Minister of Information is aware that at the moment there is a Rolls Royce car being advertised over the radio and alleged to be European driven and in perfect condition?

Mr Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member should have asked this question during question time.

Lebanese in Lagos

R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East): I want to raise a matter in respect of the Lebanese and Syrian traders in Lagos. When these Syrians and Lebanese are entering the country, it is one of the conditions of their entry that the type of business they are coming to do should be specified in their entry permit, and most of them come in as textile traders.

But it is wonderful to relate that these people start as textile traders, and the next thing is that you find them in the pools trade; after the pools business you find them as gamblers; from gambling you find them in the transport business and from transport business have now turned to printing trade.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is the policy of this Government that expatriates should not take part in trades which can be ably handled by Nigerians. Just recently the Lebanese and the Syrians are engaging in large numbers in the Printing Trade, which is not allowed in their entry permit; and I submit, Sir, that this is not in the interest of the local printers.

We cannot be driven out of the market due to no fault of ours and due to people who, for one reason or the other, have better opportunities to get overdrafts or loans from some banks or some foreign sources. I would like the Minister of Information to make a statement on this particular point.

I have in mind, particularly, two Syrians, one of them at 52 Balogun Street, Lagos, and the other one at Barrack Road, Apapa.

The Minister of Information (Hon. T. O. S. Benson): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not concerned with Syrians in the pools trade, that is the responsibility of the hon. Minister of Internal Affairs; but as far as printing is concerned, if Syrians have now decided to go into the printing trade, because of the new Ordinance passed in connection with the pools trade in Nigeria, that will be very serious indeed because it will lead to labour problems which may put some of the Nigerians in the printing trade out of job.

For that reason, Sir, if Syrians are now engaged in the printing trade, I shall cause the matter to be investigated and I will report to the Government and see to it that appropriate action is taken against them.

Chief P. D. Oboh (Ishan West): On point of information Mr Speaker, this would appear as making Nigeria an uninhabitable place for foreigners—(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Gentleman is giving his opinion which is a point of debate rather than a point of information.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to call the attention of the Minister of Education to an allegation which is gaining ground in this country now; and that is in connection with an alleged racket and scandal in the Department of Antiquities.

We are told that most of the antiquities in this country which were carried away by some of the old District Officers and Assistant District Officers have been ordered to be repurchased by the Nigerian Government and, instead of doing that, certain people are now plotting to come back to Nigeria, go round the villages and smuggle away some antiquities and then influence some authorities to label them "unwanted antiquities" so that they go free across the Atlantic to England and then they are resold to the Agents of the Nigerian Government, who are purchasing those antiquities, at fabulous prices. We are also told that some of these antiquities cost our Government as much as £25,000 each to recover.

I would like the Minister of Education to say something about this terrible scandal.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious allegation, and I would implore the House to listen to the explanation I shall have to give because I will do my best to explain the situation in as many words as I think I can afford. I am grateful for this opportunity given me to refute this allegation which I would describe as monstrous.

Firstly, I consider that I should explain the policy of Government towards the recovery of Antiquities abroad, since considerable misunderstanding appears to exist on this point. It is not the policy of the Federal Government to recover all Nigerian antiquities from abroad, and indeed it would be unwise as well as impracticable to attempt such an enterprise, since many of the pieces now on display in foreign museums and collections are internationally regarded as valuable works of art, and the display of such antiquities enhances Nigeria's prestige and brings to people of other countries an awareness of Nigeria's rich and ancient cultural heritage. We are however, endeavouring to secure for this country a representative collection of the best

Nigerian antiquities, and when items which would be valuable for our own collections are offered for sale abroad, we do try to acquire them.

I must point out, however, that Nigeria has no prior claim to antiquities in the legitimate possession of museums or private owners, and that in order to recover them Nigeria must be prepared to compete in a market where the artistic merit of these works of art is fully appreciated, and the monetary value is correspondingly high.

Sir, I have mentioned that we do not propose to recover all Nigerian antiquities abroad; nor is there any need for us to keep all of those antiquities which are in this country, and so a scheme has been devised whereby antiquities which are surplus to our own requirements, for example duplicates of existing exhibits, may legally be exported. I find it hard to believe that this House would wish to deny this opportunity either to people who having served in Nigeria, wish to take away with them some tangible *memento* of their time here, or to tourists, at a time when we are doing all we can to promote a tourist industry.

Under this scheme, surplus antiquities are sold by the Department at cost price to the Antiquities Commission which sells them to the public at a reasonable profit; the revenue from such sales is used to further the work of the Commission in respect of the preservation of Nigeria's antiquities and monuments.

Finally, Sir, I wish to refute categorically any suggestion that the Department of Antiquities not only neglects to prevent the smuggling of antiquities but actively encourages such activities. This is a monstrous accusation to make against the staff of the Department who frequently at personal inconvenience and even danger to themselves, have devoted long hours of unpaid work to the investigation and prevention of this offence.

I would assure this House that to combat the problem effectively, we have an alert and complex organisation which embraces the Police Department and Customs Officers at all customs posts in Nigeria. Nor is this the limit of our endeavours. However, hon. Members will appreciate that in such matters

[MINISTER OF EDUCATION]

one must frequently move by stealth, and I am sure that they would not wish me to jeopardise the effectiveness of our organisation by making details of this type public.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would very much like to thank the Minister of Education for his explanation. I would like also to say that it was never in my mind to say, and I did not say, that the Department was encouraging illegal traffic in their duties.

However, I would like to know from the Minister whether he is aware of the fact that last week a Lagos newspaper wrote a very comprehensive article with diagrams and even mentioned names of the people who were involved in this alleged traffic.

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South West):

Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to inform the Minister of Works that the Imo bridge about ten miles away from Okigwi township is wearing away and, except for two planks at the two ends of the bridge, one can hardly cross it. So I feel that something should be done immediately to put this in order, otherwise it would get worse. I would like to have an assurance from the Minister that something will be done.

The Minister of Works and Surveys: Sir, I give the hon. Member the assurance he asked for.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do now adjourn *sine die.*

Adjourned accordingly at fourteen minutes to six o'clock.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS APPENDIX

POLICE

Strength of Force

W.1. : M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Prime Minister, what is the strength of the Nigeria Police Force; how many Nigerians are in the senior grades, and what are their regions of origin.

The Prime Minister : The strength of the Nigeria Police Force is 12,861 all ranks. Of this figure, 236 are Nigerian Officers, comprising on the basis of their Regions of origin—

- 123—Eastern Region.
- 100—Western Region.
- 13—Northern Region.

INDUSTRY

Federal Government projects

W.2. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he will name the industrial projects fully or partly owned by the Federal Government, indicating who is the director of each project, and the cost to the Government of establishing each industry.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : At pages 252-255 in the 1960-61 Estimates will be found a statement of the investments of the Federal Government in public companies. It will be seen that the only truly industrial project in which the Federal Government has any investment is the Nigerian Cement Company Limited.

The directors of the Nigerian Cement Company Limited at the present time are :—

- Mr J. B. Daramola
- Mr P. S. Achimogu
- Mr J. A. Mackintosh
- Mr G. C. Mbanugo
- Mr G. U. Ochi
- Sir O. Ojukwu
- Mr A. T. de B. Wilmot
- Mr A. Bye-Jorgensen
- Mr I. E. Ihejeto
- Mr S. N. Heilesen

ROYAL NIGERIAN NAVY

Recruitment Plans

W.3. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Defence, what plans he has for recruiting Northerners into the Royal Nigerian Navy.

The Minister of Defence : It is Government policy to encourage suitable youths from all parts of the Federation to choose careers in the Royal Nigerian Navy. Last year a Naval recruiting team toured parts of Northern Nigeria and it is proposed to arrange a recruitment drive in April. Details of service in the Navy are being prepared in form of a brochure for distribution in universities and schools.

ESTABLISHMENTS

Permanent Secretaries and Advisers

W.4. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Establishments, how many posts of permanent secretaries and advisers to Ministries will be held by Nigerians and expatriates respectively on the 1st April, 1961 and what plans has he for nigerianising all these key posts in the immediate future.

The Minister of Establishments : On 1st April, 1961 there will be seven Nigerians holding the post of Permanent Secretary and ten expatriates. Of the ten expatriates, five will be leaving Nigeria on retirement within the next six months.

The position in respect of Advisers to various Ministries will be as follows on 1st April, 1961 :

Economic Adviser	..	..	expatriate
Chief Medical Adviser	..	..	Nigerian
Chief Federal Adviser on			
Education	..	..	Nigerian
Adviser on Technical Education			expatriate
Adviser on Teacher Training	..	..	expatriate
Adviser on Secondary Education			expatriate
Federal Art Adviser	..	..	Nigerian
Legal Adviser, Ministry of			
Finance	..	..	Nigerian
Legal Adviser, Board of			
Customs and Excise	..	..	Nigerian

2. As regards the filling of these posts, the power to appoint persons to hold the office of Permanent Secretary is vested in His Excellency the Governor-General acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister who, before tendering his advice, is required by section 143 of the Constitution to consult the Federal Public Service Commission. The appointment of persons to the posts of Adviser listed above is a matter for the Public Service Commission.

RAILWAYS**Gusau Station**

W.6. Mallam Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Transport when he intends to improve Gusau Railway Station to modern standards.

The Minister of Transport : The Nigerian Railway Corporation has made provision for improved passenger facilities at Gusau Station in its capital works programme for 1961-62.

Gambling on Trains

W.7. Mallam Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Transport what he proposes to do in order to stop some unscrupulous gamblers from operating on local trains between Kaura Namoda and Zaria, and Zaria and Kano ; and if he is aware of the rise in the incidence of theft on these routes.

The Minister of Transport : Gambling on trains, particularly in the Northern Region, has been a source of concern for some years to the Nigerian Railway Corporation, the Police and my Ministry, and the matter has been raised in the Legislature on a number of occasions. The Railway Police are making every effort to combat this form of nuisance but, unless and until the public co-operate more readily, it is difficult to see how it can be successfully eradicated.

Gambling on trains is prohibited under section 49 (i) of the Railway Bye-Laws made under the Nigerian Railway Corporation Ordinance and the penalty on conviction is £20. Furthermore, appropriate instructions on the subject of gambling have been issued to all Railway staff.

Difficulties have in the past been encountered at a number of places in the Northern Region over the disposal of cases brought under the Railway Bye-Laws. I am glad to say, however, that there has recently been some improvement in this direction and I am keeping a careful watch on this aspect of the problem.

I am not aware of any rise in the incidence of theft on the routes to which the hon. Member refers.

POLICE**Nigerian and other Officers**

W.8. Alhaji Zakari Isa asked the Prime Minister, how many Nigerian and non-Nigerian officers respectively there are in the Nigeria Police Force.

The Prime Minister : There are 236 Nigerian and 225 non-Nigerian officers in the Nigeria Police Force.

INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS**Purchase of Cars**

W.9. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Prime Minister how many cars were bought for the Independence Celebrations and at what prices ; how many were subsequently sold and at what prices ; in what manner were they sold.

The Prime Minister : 310 cars were purchased for £375,775. After the celebrations a number of these were retained for use by the Federal Government and the remainder were advertised for sale in Nigerian newspapers. The Regional Governments were also informed and invited to pass on the information to Local Authorities. To date 177 vehicles have been sold at a total price of £157,510. These vehicles have been sold for cash.

MILITARY FORCES**Compulsory National Service**

W.14. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Defence, when he intends to introduce compulsory National Service in the Royal Nigerian Military Forces for Nigerian citizens to serve for a particular period.

The Minister of Defence : Conscription in the Royal Nigerian Army would involve large scale expenditure in equipment, accommodation and instructional staff which can not be justified in present circumstances. The Army have as many volunteers as they need to maintain their strength at the level authorised by the Legislature.

Nigerian Air Force

W.15. Alhaji Zakari Isa asked the Minister of Defence, what are his plans for setting up a well-equipped Air Force for the security and defence of Nigeria.

The Minister of Defence : The question of the establishment of a Nigerian Air Force has been already referred to in the Speech from the Throne and there is nothing further to add to that reference, at the present time.

Strength of Royal Nigerian Army

W.16. Alhaji Zakari Isa asked the Minister of Defence, the number of Nigerian and non-Nigerian officers respectively in the Royal Nigerian Army ; and what is its total strength.

The Minister of Defence : The number of Nigerian officers is 122. The number of non-Nigerian officers is 230. The total strength of the Royal Nigerian Army is 7,572.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Diplomatic Missions

W.18. Alhaji Zakari Isa asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs in how many countries has Nigeria diplomatic missions; what countries are these; when does he propose to open more such missions and in what countries?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : Already Nigeria has established 12 diplomatic missions abroad.

There are Nigerian High Commissions in the United Kingdom and Ghana. A Nigerian Commission in Freetown which will become a High Commission when Sierra Leone becomes independent on the 27th of April, 1961. We have also established Embassies in the United States of America, Sudan, Republic of Cameroun, Liberia, Federal

Republic of Germany and Saudi Arabia. Nigeria has a Permanent Representation at the United Nations in New York and a Consulate-General operates in New York under the supervision of the Embassy in Washington.

In addition to these, we have arranged with the Spanish Government to establish a suitable Nigerian Consulate in Santa Isabel, in place of the existing British Vice-Consulate, to look after the interests of the several thousand Nigerian labourers in Fernando Po and Rio Muni. Negotiations have also been completed for the opening of Nigerian Embassies in the Ivory Coast and another in the Republic of Guinea, and agreement has been reached to exchange diplomatic relations with the Republic of Senegal.

Government proposes to establish missions in several other countries in various parts of the World, especially in Asia and Africa, as the necessary trained staff become available and other circumstances permit.

6th April, 1961

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Federal Loans Board

W.11. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, when was the Federal Loans Board formed; how many loans has it given to various individuals and organisations since its formation; what are their Regions of origin and the purposes for which the loans were granted; and is the Minister aware that very few people in Northern Nigeria know of the existence of this Board and its activities.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : The Federal Loans Board was established on the 3rd of May, 1956 by the Industrial Loans (Lagos and Federation) Ordinance, No. 17 of 1956. 37 loans to a total value of £251,647 have been paid out by the Board to 35 individuals or organisations located as follows :—

Federal Territory	..	..	30
Eastern Nigeria	..	..	3
Western Nigeria	..	..	2

The industries which have been assisted by these loans include engineering, tailoring,

sawmilling, baking, soft drinks manufacture, printing, water transport, furniture making, upholstery manufacture, textile manufacture, fishing, catering, palm oil milling, and gramophone record manufacture.

I am aware of the need to publicize the facilities available from the Federal Loans Board and to this end a brochure has recently been printed for wide distribution throughout Nigeria.

Industrial Projects in Nigeria

W.12. Alhaji Zakari Isa asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many foreign companies have so far made applications to set up industrial projects in Nigeria; and how many such applications were received last year.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : There is no system of industrial licensing in force, it therefore follows that entrepreneurs are not required to make application to establish an industry. During 1960, 38 industries in which overseas partners were participating applied for assistance under the Industrial Development (Income Tax Relief) Ordinance.

10th April, 1961

TRANSPOR

Bornu Railway Extension

W.5. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Transport if he does not consider the progress of four miles per month on the Bornu Railway Extension too slow by comparison with the rate of one and a half miles per day at which the old Baro line was built in 1908, despite the modern machinery and equipment in current use which replace manual labour.

The Minister of Transport : It is not possible to draw a close comparison between the Bornu Extension and the Baro line which was built between 1908 and 1911. The latter was constructed as a pioneer line using light 45-lb. rails and mainly with sand ballast. Unlimited direct labour and unlimited military supervision were used and it is important to note that track laying at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles per working day was not achieved until the last year of the project. The Minna/Baro section remains to-day a sub-standard section of the Railway.

The Bornu Extension is being built as a standard railway and the rate of track laying is governed by three main factors :—

- (1) the rate of construction of bridges, culverts and formation, to currently acceptable recognised standards ;
- (2) the rate of building main depots, exemplified by Bauchi ;
- (3) the rate of production of ballast.

The maximum speed of laying track on the Bornu Extension has been planned at 12 miles per month, with an average rate of laying $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles per month from the commencement of work until reaching Maiduguri.

There are thus vital differences in the two projects and it is invidious to compare them. In accordance with a recommendation of the Elias Commission of Inquiry, experts are being appointed to look into the overall question of standards and costs on the Bornu Extension.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Fishing by Non-Nigerians

W.10. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Economic Development if he is aware that foreign vessels and fishermen violate Nigerian waters, and whether he will consider enacting legislation to prohibit non-Nigerians from fishing in Nigerian waters.

The Minister of Economic Development : It is known that there are a number of foreign vessels and fishermen trawling in Nigerian waters but almost all of them operate in co-operation with Nigerian fishing interests. However, an Act to regularise the whole question of the fishing industry in Federal territorial waters will be introduced during this session of Parliament.

Plans for New Census

W.28. Mr A. O. Ogunsanya asked the Minister of Economic Development, how soon he proposes to take a new census of the population of Lagos and cause a new register of electors to be prepared in the light of the figure obtained at that census.

The Minister of Economic Development : The new census of the population of Lagos will be carried out during the latter part of May 1962 as part of the general census of the whole of Nigeria, and a new Register of Electors will be prepared from the census returns, which will include the names of all persons enumerated who are entitled to vote.

ESTABLISHMENTS

Vacancies in Public Service

W.29. Mr A. O. Ogunsanya asked the Minister of Establishments, how many posts in the senior grades are still vacant in the Federal Public Service ; and what steps are being taken to speed up recruitment of Nigerians at home and abroad to fill those posts.

The Minister of Establishments : There were 858 posts vacant in the senior grades of the Federal Public Service on the 1st of January, 1961.

Recruitment to senior posts are made by either direct appointment or by promotion from the junior grades, and this is the responsibility of the Federal Public Service Commission. Efforts so far taken by the Commission to speed up recruitment of Nigerians include visits by its officers to the University College, Ibadan, and other West African institutions of higher learning to advise the undergraduates of the posts for which their particular training qualifies them and also the prospects in the Federal Public Service. These visits have resulted in an increase, and greater diversity of interest, in the applications submitted to the Commission. I understand that the Commission is proposing to undertake very soon a recruitment tour of the United Kingdom, and possibly of the United States of America, in order to interview qualified Nigerians, as also overseas applicants, for appointments in the Federal Public Service.

The establishment of a Recruitment Agency, a branch of the Federal Public Commission, in the Office of the High Commissioner for Nigeria in the United Kingdom is also one of the means of speeding up recruitment of Nigerians. Any Nigerian who is qualified for appointment in the Federal Public Service can thus be interviewed in London and he will, if recommended by the Overseas Selection Panel, be appointed before he returns to Nigeria.

In addition to the efforts of the Commission, the Nigerianisation Office issues newsletters to all students in which it draws attention from time to time to the vacancies in the Federal Public Service. The Nigerianisation Office has also recently completed a comprehensive guide to careers in the Federal Public Service which gives adequate information about the various posts in the Public Service, the qualifications required for those posts and the prospects open to officers occupying them. Copies of the guide will be distributed to all colleges and higher institutions of learning and employment agencies in the Federation and to institutions and agencies outside Nigeria which have regular contacts with Nigerian students. I have asked the Nigerianisation Officer to visit the United Kingdom this year in order to advise the Nigerian students of the opportunities which await them in the Federal Public

Service, and I do hope that all these measures will result in attracting more Nigerians to take up appointments in the Federal Public Service.

HEALTH

Children in General Hospital

W.31. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Health, how many children under three years of age were treated as out-patients in the General Hospital, Lagos; how many were subsequently admitted as in-patients for the same illness; how many of these died, and how many were cured during each month of the period November 1960 to February 1961.

The Minister of Health: The following Children under 3 years were treated in the General Hospital, Lagos during the period November 1960 to February 1961.

	<i>Out-Patients</i>	<i>Cases</i>		
November, 1960	4,802		
December, 1960	4,097		
January, 1961	4,937		
February, 1961	4,567		
		<i>Admissions</i>	<i>Cures</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
November, 1960	250	197	53
December, 1960	274	198	76
January, 1961	251	175	76
February, 1961	202	131	71

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Lagos Fire Brigades

W.32. Mr F. A. Amadi asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many fire brigade units are at present stationed in Lagos; and what arrangements are there for their expeditious and prompt answer to calls.

The Minister of Internal Affairs: The Lagos Fire Brigade mans three fire stations, one in Central Lagos, one at Ebute Metta and one at Apapa. The brigade has an establishment of 187 men of all ranks and is at present provided with the following fire appliances:—

- 1 Turntable ladder
- 3 Water tenders
- 2 Pump escapes
- 1 Foam tender
- 1 Land-Rover pump.

The delivery of two additional water tenders is expected shortly.

The three stations all have exchange telephones and are linked together by direct telephone lines. There is also a direct line between the control room at the fire brigade headquarters and the Police control room which receives many fire calls through the 999 system. The telephones are manned at all times.

All fire calls receive immediate attention and the average time between the receipt of an alarm at a fire station and the departure of the first appliance is less than 30 seconds.

LABOUR

Nigerian Nationals in Manchester

W.35. Mr A. O. Ogunsanya asked the Minister of Labour, what has been the result of certain questionnaires filled by several Nigerian Nationals in Manchester with a view to their eventual rehabilitation; whether he is aware that most of the men are ex-servicemen with several years' service in the Merchant Navy; and whether he will take steps to find places for such men in the Nigerian Navy.

Minister of Labour: As a result of enquiries made by me, of unemployment among Nigerians in the United Kingdom, I received a number of applications for assistance to obtain employment in Nigeria. Thirty-eight of these were from persons resident in Manchester, and their applications have been submitted to the Governments in the Federation and other employers.

It is understood that some of the men have already been interviewed for employment; but it is not yet known how many have actually been placed as action is still proceeding in the matter.

I am not aware that most of the men concerned are ex-servicemen; and from the particulars submitted to my Ministry, only six claimed experience of some sort in the Merchant Navy. The particulars of any of them who have requested to be considered for employment in the Nigerian Navy will be dealt with accordingly.

Nigerian Non-Students in Britain

W.36. Mr A. O. Ogunsanya asked the Minister of Labour, how soon he will look into the plight of Nigerian non-students in Britain now that it has become very difficult for them to get employment there.

Minister of Labour: I have already caused special enquiries to be made, following representations made to me of unemployment among the Nigerian non-students resident in the United Kingdom. Special questionnaires were distributed, 155 of which were subsequently returned by those who wished to be assisted to find employment in Nigeria. Efforts have been and are being made by my Ministry to find suitable employment for these persons on the basis of their qualifications and experience.

INDEPENDENCE

Cups for School Children

W.37. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Prime Minister, why Independence cups were not given to over 3,000 school children in Awka North constituency, in spite of the fact that relevant date in respect of numbers of schools and school children were supplied in time to the competent authorities; and if he will investigate how these cups were distributed.

The Prime Minister: A total of one million, seven hundred and two thousand and three hundred and seventy-eight Independence cups were allocated to the Eastern Region and despatched to the various distribution centres as recommended by the Eastern Regional Government. The actual distribution of these cups to school children in the Eastern Region was the overall responsibility of that Region. The Federal Government therefore does not propose to institute any investigation as to how the distribution was actually carried out.

TRANSPORT

Railway Line Ibadan to Enugu

W.38. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Transport what proposals he has for the construction of a railway line from Ibadan to Enugu *via* Benin and Onitsha.

The Minister of Transport : None at present. Road communications between the Eastern and Western Regions will be greatly improved when the Niger Bridge and the reconstruction of the Ijebu-Ode-Benin road have been completed. A rail link between Ibadan and Enugu would be relatively costly because of the many water-courses which would have to be bridged, and potential traffic during the foreseeable future would not justify expenditure on a rail link parallel with the existing road.

It is possible, however, that, with the expanding economy and the development of heavy industry, such a rail link may eventually be required. I assure the hon. Member that I will bear the matter in mind and, if circumstances change so as to warrant detailed investigation of the project, I will arrange for a survey to be undertaken.

Railway Line across the Niger

W.40. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if provision for a railway line is included in the plan to construct a bridge across the River Niger at Onitsha.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : No, Sir. The possibility of including a railway line in the Niger Bridge project was considered early in the planning stage of the bridge but, for financial and engineering reasons, the bridge has had to be designed to cater for road traffic only.

WORKS

Contracts Awarded

O.44. Mr R. O. A. Akinjide asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will state the number of building contracts and road contracts respectively awarded to his Ministry for each of the years 1957, 1958, 1959 and 1960 ; and how many in respect of each year went to foreign contractors and indigenous contractors respectively.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : In 1957-58 67 building contracts were awarded, 26 to foreign and 41 to Nigerian contractors ; and 9 road contracts were awarded, all to foreign contractors.

In 1958-59 129 building contracts were awarded, 52 to foreign contractors and 77 to Nigerians ; and 10 road contracts were awarded, all to foreign contractors.

In 1959-60 95 building contracts were awarded, 26 to foreign and 69 to Nigerian contractors ; and 11 road contracts were awarded, 10 to foreign contractors and 1 to a Nigerian contractor.

In 1960-61 50 building contracts were awarded, 24 to foreign and 26 to Nigerian contractors ; and 13 road contracts were awarded, 12 to foreign firms and 1 to a Nigerian firm.

Lagos-Ibadan Road

O.45. Mr R. O. A. Akinjide asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether he is aware that the section of the Lagos-Ibadan road *via* Shagamu between miles 74 and 75 just beyond Abanla Village is in a dangerous condition and causes many accidents each month ; and whether steps will be taken to improve that section of the road.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : I am fully aware of the need for improvement of this stretch of road. The major capital work required cannot be financed during the present Economic Programme, but substantial improvements to this and to other sections of the Lagos-Ibadan road will receive high priority in the next Programme.

O.46. Mr R. O. Akinjide asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when he will widen and straighten that section of the Lagos-Ibadan road lying wholly in the township of Shagamu in order to obviate the frequent accidents caused by the narrowness of the road and the dangerous corners there.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : It is intended to improve the Lagos-Ibadan road at Shagamu, either by constructing a by-pass or improvement to the existing road. This work will be included in the next Road Programme and will be undertaken as soon as funds are provided for it.

12th April, 1961

POSTAL SERVICES

Mobile Post Offices

W.22. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Communications, how many mobile post offices there were in each region on 1st January, 1961.

The Minister of Communications : There were two Mobile Post Offices operating in each of the Northern, Western and Eastern Regions on the 1st January, 1961. These Mobile Post Offices are based on Kano and Jos, Ibadan and Benin, and Enugu and Aba.

Private Box Facilities

W.23. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Communications, how many post offices in Nigeria have private boxes, and what plans he has for providing such a service in Birnin Kebbi.

The Minister of Communications : There are 143 Post Offices and 16 Sub-Post Offices offering Private Box facilities within the Federation. The provision of Private Boxes at Birnin-Kebbi has already been approved and they will be installed as soon as possible.

Postal Agencies with Savings Banks

W.25. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Communications how many postal agencies were there in each Region on 1st January, 1961; and how many of them have savings bank facilities.

The Minister of Communications : The number of Postal Agencies in each Region and the number offering Savings Bank transactions are as follows :—

Region	Postal Agencies	Savings Bank Facilities
West	434	55
East	374	43
North	187	2
Lagos	32	12

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Entry Permits for Expatriates

W.33. Mr A. O. Ogunsanya asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many ex-

patriates have, during the last three years, been given the necessary permits to enter the country to practise privately as accountants, pool promoters, pool agents, lawyers, nurses, engineering consultants, auditors, and estate agents respectively; and what is the attitude of the Government towards the influx of expatriates in vocations in which there are already a good number of Nigerians.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : The statistical records of immigrants maintained by the Immigration Department do not cover the information asked for and this, I hope will be remedied in the future when the immigration practice is re-examined. However, the attitude of Government towards immigrants seeking to take up permanent employment in Nigeria is covered by the following policy :

(a) no non-Nigerian may reside in Nigeria unless his presence is to the economic and/or social benefit of Nigeria ;

(b) no non-Nigerian may reside in Nigeria to do work which it is considered a Nigerian can do.

Additionally, firms operating in Nigeria are, on application, allocated an expatriate quota, which sets out the number of non-Nigerians that they may employ at any particular time. These quotas are fixed after reference to Regional Government and the appropriate Federal Ministry. For example, commercial applications will be examined by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, while building and engineering applications would be examined by the Ministry of Works and Surveys.

Apart from general quotas, expatriate quotas may also set down the qualifications of the person who may be employed against them and the Immigration Department ensures that only persons possessing such qualifications are allowed to enter Nigeria against a particular quota.

Where an application is received for an expatriate quota increase, to recruit an expatriate with certain qualifications and it is considered that Nigerians with similar qualifications exist in the field, the increase is normally refused.

Senior Posts in Prisons Department

W.34. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, the number of Nigerians in the senior posts of the Prisons Department region by region; and what efforts is he making to attract more Northerners to join both the senior and junior ranks of that Department.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : The number of Nigerian officers employed in Senior posts of the Federal Prisons Department is as follows :—

<i>Place of Origin</i>			
Northern Region	..	..	2
Western Region ..	..	..	26
Eastern Region ..	..	..	25
Southern Cameroons	..	..	1

Of these, 8 are serving in the Northern Region, 11 in the Western Region, 19 in the Eastern Region, 14 in Lagos area and 2 in the Southern Cameroons.

I have made every effort to encourage Northerners to join the Prison Service and the Federal and Northern Public Service Commissions give every assistance to this end. There are at present in the Prisons Department, 5 Assistant Chief Warders in training and 2 Cadet Assistant Superintendents of Prisons of Northern origin. One of the Cadet Assissant Superintendents is at present undergoing a course of training in the United Kingdom.

TRANSPORT**Ojikutu Nigerianisation Report**

W.39. Mr A. O. Ogunsanya asked the Minister of Transport how soon the Ojikutu Nigerianisation Report, to which reference was made in the Elias Commission Report, will be published.

The Minister of Transport : The Nigerian Railway Corporation does not intend to publish the Ojikutu Nigerianisation Report.

The Report of the Ojikutu Committee was submitted to the Corporation in April 1960 and its recommendations were dealt with by the Corporation in the following month. Copies of the Report and of the Corporation's decisions thereon were supplied to my Ministry, to the Elias Commission of Inquiry and to

the Railway Trade Unions, and Important extracts from the Report were given publicity in the Corporation's staff magazine.

As the hon. Member is aware, the Elias Commission endorsed the Report as adopted by the Corporation, subject to certain modifications. Most of the decisions reached by the Corporation have already been implemented and the remainder are in the process of being carried out.

In the circumstances, I do not consider that that general publication of the Report at this late date would serve any useful purpose, nor that the expense would be justified. I will, however, place a copy in the Library of the House for the information of Members.

WORKS AND SURVEYS**Miles of Roads maintained**

W.41. Mr A. Akomolafe asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will state how many miles of road are being maintained by his Ministry; and what extensions to the road system are being proposed by Government.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : The Ministry of Works and Surveys is responsible for the maintenance of 5,739 miles of Trunk Roads 'A'. Whether the Federal road system should be extended is under inter-governmental examination. A survey of requirements up to 1972 has been completed, but the Road Programme for 1962-67 has not yet been considered by the Government in the light of the finance likely to be available.

Lagos Island Second Bridge

W.42. Mr A. O. Ogunsanya asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how soon it is proposed to build a second bridge to link Lagos Island with the mainland.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : The planning for a second mainland bridge is now in an advanced stage. The scheme consists of a bridge across the lagoon between Alakoro and the Coal Wharf, with dual carriage-ways, cycle tracks and footpaths together with a complementary and comprehensive system of approach roads. Preliminary work is to start immediately on the Ebute-Metta end approach road. Means of financing the whole scheme are being actively explored with the aim of early commencement.

17th April, 1961

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Federal Loans Board

Federal Loans Board during the period 1959-60, stating their towns, and the amount and the period of repayment of the loans.

W.20. Mr S. A. Yerokun asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, the names of those people to whom loans were given by the

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : The following loans were made by the Federal Loans Board during 1959-60 :—

1959

Period of Repayment—10 years

Name	Industry	Amount	Date paid out	Location of industry
'DE FACTO' Works Limited	Bakery	£ 6,000 0	8-12-59	Lagos
Sankey Printing Press	Printing	3,500 0	8-1-59	Ikeja
Asroi Printing Press	Printing	842 10	6-2-59	Lagos
M. A. Ogundero	Tailoring	450 0	12-1-59	Lagos
R. A. Salako	Printing	550 0	5-3-59	Lagos
Wilmer Publicity	Silk-green printing	2,500 0	9-11-59	Lagos
Nigerian Wood-Service Furniture Company	Woodworking	3,000 0	8-12-59	Lagos

1960

Nigerswiss Fisheries	Fishing	29,950 0	18-2-60	Lagos
C. T. Onyekwelu & Sons Limited	Gramophone record manufacture	30,000 0	24-2-60	Onitsha
T. N. Madu Sons & Company Limited	Palm oil milling	10,000 0	2-8-60	Aba
T. N. Madu Sons & Company Limited	Palm oil milling	19,000 0	1-12-60	Aba
E. C. I. Onuigbo Sons & Company	Palm oil milling	10,000 0	2-8-60	Aba
Grace Cuts Tailoring Service	Tailoring	700 0	25-8-60	Lagos
Olugunwa Trading Stores	Sawmilling	6,507 0	7-9-60	Lagos
Olugunwa Trading Stores	Sawmilling	2,250 0	22-12-60	Lagos

Munitions Factory at Awka

W.21. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will consider establishing a munitions factory at Awka in view of the well-known skill, history and fame of that town in the manufacture of

ammunition, and in blacksmithing and craftsmanship.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : If ever the Federal Government decides to establish a munitions factory the merits of Awka as a possible site will be borne in mind by my Ministry.

Importation of South African Goods

W.44. Mr E. C. Akwivu asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will state the value of goods imported into Nigeria from the Union of South Africa during 1960; and if he will indicate how and when he proposes to take effective steps to put a stop to the importation of South African goods into Nigeria.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: The value of imports from the Union of South Africa in 1960 was £1,018,555.

The Open General Import Licences were amended on the 2nd of March, 1961, and no goods can enter Nigeria from South Africa except under specific licence. I have instructed that no such licences are to be issued in respect of new consignments. In effect, this means that there is now a ban on the importation of South African goods.

Northerners as Produce Officers

W.45. M. Yarima Saleh asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many Northerners hold posts of Produce Officers in the Department of Marketing and Exports and what is their respective length of service in the Department.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: There are no Northerners holding the post of Produce Officer in the Department of Marketing and Exports.

DEFENCE

Expatriate Officers in Royal Nigerian Navy

W.47. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Defence, the number of expatriate officers in the Royal Nigerian Navy.

The Minister of Defence: There are 34 expatriate officers serving in the Royal Nigerian Navy.

EDUCATION

Inter-Regional Secondary School

W.50. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Education, if he will consider the desirability and practicability of building the inter-regional secondary school at Abagana in Awka Division.

The Minister of Education: The whole question of the establishment of inter-Regional Secondary Schools is being considered in consultation with Regional Governments. The location of the schools will be decided in the light of the consultation, but I cannot say at this stage at what place or places they will be established.

FINANCE

Loans to Ikoyi and Island Clubs, Lagos

W.52. M. Yarima Saleh asked the Minister of Finance, what assistance Government have given to the Ikoyi and Island Clubs, Lagos, by way of loans, and, if any, what are the conditions under which the loans have been granted.

The Minister of Finance: A loan of £4,000 was made to the Ikoyi Club in March, 1939 on condition that the Club should provide restaurant, catering and lounge facilities for Government officers. The terms were that the loan should bear interest at 5 per cent and should be repayable in 40 half-yearly instalments the first instalment being due on 1st July, 1960. The loan was in fact repaid in full in a lump sum on the 22nd of February, 1952.

In March 1960 a loan of £12,000 was made to the Island Club in order to assist the Club to rebuild its premises. The terms require 20 equated annual instalments of principal and interest at 4 per cent, the first instalment being due 12 months from the date on which the loan is taken up. In connection with this loan the Federal Government has taken as security a first charge on the Club's leasehold interest on its land. As is well known the Island Club is doing excellent work in promoting good relations amongst the different races in Lagos.

HEALTH

Patients at Hospitals

W.53. M. Yarima Saleh asked the Minister of Health what is the number of in-patients and out-patients respectively who attended the General and Creek Hospitals Lagos in the year 1959-60 prior to the increase of hospital fees.

The Minister of Health: The hospital fees were increased in 1951 and have not been amended since.

The number of in-patients and out-patients respectively who attended the General and Creek Hospitals Lagos in the year 1959-60 are as follows :—

	<i>In-patients</i>	<i>Out-patients</i>
1959—General Hospital	9,792	451,744
Creek Hospital	1,417	18,068
1960—General Hospital	12,367	532,561
Creek Hospital	1,437	16,411

INFORMATION

Film Production

W.54. M. Yarima Saleh asked the Minister of Information the types of films so far produced locally by the Federal Film Unit.

The Minister of Information : The total of 96 Films produced and released by the Film Unit since 1950 (approx. 9.6 per year) are divided into headings of types which are appended below :—

<i>Type</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
Agriculture	7
Health	5
Education and Sport	12
Industry and Development	20
Government Publicity	29
Royal Visits and V.I.P. Visits	12
Local Government, Military Forces and Police	11

To be released shortly are the following :

- Nigeria Hails Independence
- Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, First Nigerian Governor-General
- The Prime Minister's Tour of the West and East
- The Nigerian Red Cross
- International Jurists' Conference.

The following Films made by the Film Unit received Awards :—

Small-Pox	Certificate from the Edinburgh Film Festival
Back to the Community	Certificate from the Edinburgh Film Festival
Nigeria's University	Awarded two Statuettes and a "Premio Hamar" from Italia Somalia (African International Film Festival)

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Self-supporting Prisons

W.55. M. Yarima Saleh asked the Minister of Internal Affairs how many Government Prisons are self-supporting, and if none, what does he intend to do in order to make them so.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : No Government Prisons are self-supporting, and I am not aware of any part of the civilised world where Prisons are self-supporting. Prisoners are as far as possible employed on work of a vocational value to enhance their productive and earning power on release from Prison. They are taught trades such as Tailoring, Carpentry, Joinery, Building, Block-making, Brick-making, Painting, Blacksmithing and several others.

During the year 1959-60, the sum of £15,689 was realised from Prison Industries and work valued at £91,417 was carried out by Prison labour free of charge for various Government Departments. When the new Lagos Prison is built at Kirikiri, I will consider establishing industries in the Prison, but the primary object of these industries will be to give Prisoners training that they may profitably follow on release, and not to provide Government with source of revenue.

JUDICIAL

Office of Solicitor-General

W.56. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, whether there are plans now or in the near future to make the office of Solicitor-General of the Federation a political appointment as is done in civilised countries; and if there are no such plans, when will the office be made separate and distinct from that of Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Justice.

The Attorney-General : As far as I am aware, there are no such plans as the hon. Member suggests. Whether or when the office of the Solicitor-General is to be separated from that of Permanent Secretary is a matter for the Government to decide.

Judicial Service Commission

W.57. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, if he will state the names of the chairman and members of the Judicial Service Commission, and the names of the judges appointed within the last three years for both the Lagos High Court and the Federal Supreme Court.

The Attorney-General : Under section 120 of the Constitution the composition of the Judicial Service Commission is as follows:—

Chairman :

Sir Adetokunbo Ademola, Chief Justice of the Federation.

Members :

The hon. Sir Clement Nageon de Lestang, Chief Justice, High Court, Lagos.

The hon. Sir Louis N. Mbanefo, Chief Justice, High Court, Eastern Nigeria, Enugu.

The hon. Mr Justice S. O. Quashie-Idun, Chief Justice, High Court, Western Nigeria, Ibadan.

The hon. Mr Justice W. H. Hurley, Chief Justice, High Court, Northern Nigeria, Kaduna.

The hon. Mr Justice L. Brett, Federal Justice, Federal Supreme Court, Lagos.

Judges appointed within the last three years

Federal Supreme Court—

Chief Justice of the Federation :

Sir Adetokunbo Ademola.

Federal Justices :

Mr C. E. C. Nageon de Lestang.

Mr M. J. Abbott.

Mr L. Brett.

Mr L. N. Mbanefo.

Mr E. I. G. Unsworth.

Mr J. I. C. Taylor.

Sir Vahe Bairamian.

High Court of Lagos—

Chief Justice :

Sir Clement Nageon de Lestang.

Puisne Justices :

Mr A. R. F. Dickson.

Mr H. U. Kaine (Acting).

Mr G. B. A. Coker.

Mr E. H. Sainsbury.

Mr G. S. Sowemimo (Acting).

Mr Justice Onyeama and Mr Justice Bellamy were appointed to the High Court over 3 years ago.

Criminal Cases at Supreme Court

W.58. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, if he will state the number and names of criminal cases handled by the Federal Supreme Court within the last three years; and how many are now pending.

The Attorney-General : The number of cases handled by the Federal Supreme Court within the last three years are as follows—

In 1958—199 criminal appeals

In 1959—197 criminal appeals

In 1960—191 criminal appeals

out of these 127 were disposed of leaving 64 cases pending on 1st January, 1961.

As the hon. Member will see from the number of cases tried in each year, it will be impossible to furnish here and now the names of all the criminal appeals heard by the Federal Supreme Court.

If he has particular cases in mind and will name them, I shall be glad to provide any information he may require.

Criminal Cases at High Court

W.59. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, if he will state the number and names of criminal cases handled by the Lagos High Court within the last three years, and those now pending.

The Attorney-General : The number of cases handled by the High Court of Lagos within the last three years are as follows—

In 1958—42 cases.

In 1959—36 cases.

In 1960—51 cases.

In 1961— 7 cases so far.

There are now eight cases pending, seven of which will be tried in the present Assizes. The eight concerns a prisoner who escaped from prison in 1959 and still at large.

The names of the cases have not been furnished for the reasons given in my answer to question W.58.

Legal Service Commission

W.60. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, when a Legal Service Commission will be created to enable him to preside over the appointment of Crown Counsel, in view of the fact that the role of the Public Service Commission in this connection is inadequate.

The Attorney-General : There is provision, as we have seen in the answer to Question 57, for a Judicial Service Commission ; but there is no similar provision for a Legal Service Commission. Here, again, I am afraid that the issue is one for determination by the Government or even the Governments of the Federation.

Director of Public Prosecutions

W.61. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, what plans he has to ensure that the office of the Solicitor-General does not interfere with the duties and responsibilities of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The Attorney-General : The duties and responsibilities of the Solicitor-General and of the Director of Public Prosecutions are clearly defined in our Constitution, and one cannot interfere with the other. The position is that the Director of Public Prosecutions is not responsible to the Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary ; indeed, as regards criminal prosecutions, the Director of Public Prosecutions is answerable to no one.

Criminal Cases Lost

W.62. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, whether he is aware that the Government have lost many criminal cases within the last three years ; and whether he attributes this to high political bias of the top officials of his Ministry or to other causes.

The Attorney-General : I am not aware, as the hon. Member alleges, that Government has lost many criminal cases during the last three years. In any case, if prosecuting officers fail to obtain convictions, their failure is not necessarily attributable to their political bias or to the political bias of those described by the hon. Member as "top officials" of my Ministry. I would like to make it clear that I have no reason whatsoever to doubt the loyalty or integrity of any of the officers in my Ministry.

Convictions may not be obtained in criminal cases for several reasons. Thus, for example, the Police may not have investigated cases fully ; or prosecution witnesses may have committed deliberate perjury or turned hostile ; or in jury trials jurors may have completely misunderstood the case. Similarly, the Judge may not believe the prosecution witnesses, or the prosecuting officer may, through inexperience, not present the case properly. I have not, in my experience, heard of cases being lost merely because of the political bias of the officials concerned but if the hon. Member would like to bring to my attention any specific instances of such bias, I shall cause an inquiry to be held so as to ensure that the officer concerned is disciplined. Of a total of 183 criminal cases prosecuted by officers of my Ministry during the last three years, 110 resulted in convictions, 59 resulted in acquittals, and there are 37 cases pending.

MINES AND POWER

Electricity for Awka

W.63. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what is the cause of the delay in implementing the decision of the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria to supply electricity to Awka.

The Minister of Mines and Power : There are no abnormal delays in the progress of work in providing a supply of electricity to Awka. A detailed survey has been completed, specifications are almost complete, and the Corporation will shortly be publishing an invitation for contractors to tender for the work.

It is expected that if all goes well Awka will be receiving electricity by this time next year.

Electricity for Gashua and Nguru

W.64. Mallam Yarima Saleh asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether he is aware of any scheme to supply Gashua and Nguru with electricity, and if so, when will he start the scheme ; and, if not when consideration will be given to supplying these two important towns with electricity.

The Minister of Mines and Power : The Electricity Corporation of Nigeria is at present making a survey of Nguru to ascertain whether it would be suitable for electrification under the Corporation's development plans this

year. If, as seems likely, it proves to be suitable, the Corporation will utilise its own funds for the purpose and would hope to start work before the end of this year.

The Corporation has no plans to supply Gashua, but if included in the Northern Regional Government's next development programme, the Corporation will be pleased to investigate the economics of the proposal.

WORKS AND SURVEYS

Zaria-Kano road

W.65. Alhaji Zakari Isa asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he is aware of the generally appalling state of all Trunk Roads 'A' in the Federation, particularly the Zaria-Kano road which badly needs tarring; and if so, what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : No Sir; Trunk Roads 'A' are not in a "generally appalling state" taking into account the limited moneys available for them. Particular roads need to be reconstructed before they can be effectively maintained, and, within the finance available, they will be improved in the next Road Programme, 1962-67. Work is expected to begin on the tarring of the Zaria-Kano road shortly.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Lignite in Awgu Division

W.72. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry whether he is aware of the existence of lignite in Awgu Division; and if he has plans for utilising this mineral for the production of nylon, paint, tar and gas.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : As has been stated on many occasions, it is not the policy of the Federal Government to establish industry, but to create a climate conducive to industrial development. The mineral resources of Nigeria are brought to the notice of entrepreneurs planning local industries and the lignite deposits in Awgu Division are not overlooked.

Imports of Potatoes

W.73. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what is the value of potatoes imported into this country in the years 1958, 1959 and 1960.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : The value of potatoes, including sweet potatoes, imported into this country in each of the three years is shown in the following table :—

Year	Value (£)
1958	46,665
1959	52,229
1960	58,876

The above figures are exclusive of sweet, canned and dehydrated potatoes in respect of which separate statistics are not available.

Glass Industry in Eastern Region

W.74. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry what contribution the Federal Government are making towards the establishment of a glass industry in the Eastern Region; and what is the cause of the delay in establishing this industry.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : Considerable work has been done by my Ministry with a view to establishing, at the earliest possible date, a glass industry in Nigeria. Samples of possible raw materials have been tested and various proposals have been submitted for consideration. Consultations on the matter have proved more protracted than was expected but the matter remains under active consideration both in Nigeria and overseas.

HEALTH

Groundnut Powder

W.78. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Health, what is the present position of the groundnut powder experiment initiated by Dr Nichols; whether any acceptability test was conducted; and what was the result.

The Minister of Health : The present position of the groundnut powder experiment initiated by Dr Nichols is that the matter is being pursued and still in the experimented stage. On the 1st of May, 1961 a week's experiment will be conducted in six hospitals in Lagos. The result of the experiment will reveal whether the patients react favourably or not to the taste of the bread which will contain 5 per cent of groundnut flour. The taste of the bread of an earlier experiment containing 10 per cent of groundnut flour, was unfavourable. The experiment is designed to enrich

the bread consumed by the patients by increasing the protein content of the bread made from local or imported flour by the addition of groundnut flour.

LABOUR

Central Labour Front in East

W.82. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Labour, what is the attitude of his Ministry towards the recent formation of a new Central Labour front in Eastern Nigeria.

The Minister of Labour : I have not received any official notification of the formation of any Central Labour front in Eastern Nigeria. The only indication of the formation of such a body came to my notice in the form of newspaper reports published in the Daily Express of the 14th March, 1961 and also in the Daily Times of the 14th and the 27th March, 1961.

Dock Labour Registration Scheme

W.83. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Labour, how successful is the scheme introduced by his Ministry for the control of employment of Labour in the port of Lagos; and if he will consider extending such a scheme to the Regions.

The Minister of Labour : It is too early yet to assess the extent of the success of the scheme; we can only claim an initial success in its first phase, that of registration.

2. The object of the Dock Labour Registration Scheme in Lagos is to decasualise employment in the docks so that workers should enjoy a greater degree of stability in employment and earnings.

3. The second phase will be introduced shortly in which at least 3,000 dockworkers will receive a guarantee of 15 days employment each month or pay in lieu.

Split in Labour Organisation

W.84. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Labour, what efforts have so far been made by his Ministry to reconcile the leaders of the two factions of the Central Labour Front; and if he will consider appointing a judicial commission to investigate the root causes of this unrest and split in Nigeria's labour organisation.

The Minister of Labour : I will deal first with the second part of the question and the answer is NO. In this connection, the hon.

member's attention is invited to a similar question, Question No. O.446, by the hon. E. C. Akwivu published at page 2383 of the Debates of the House of the 16th August, 1960, and my reply thereto. Part of my reply reads as follows:—

“The Government takes the view that the factors responsible for the present split in the country's trade union movement are matters that are the concern of the trade union movement itself.”

The Government's views since then have not changed.

2. Nigeria has accepted the obligation imposed by I.L.O. Convention 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to organise. Article 3 (2) of the Convention requires the Public Authorities, that is the Governments of Member-States, to refrain from any interference which would restrict the right of workers' and employers' organisations to conduct their affairs in freedom.

3. Under Article 11 of the same Convention, this Government undertook to take all necessary and appropriate measures to ensure that workers and employers may exercise freely the right to organise. One of the obligations in such workers' as well as employers' organisations is that in exercising the rights provided for in the Convention, they and their respective organisations, like other persons or organised bodies shall respect the law of the land. There have, so far, been no indications that the two opposing central trade union factions have not respected the law of this land.

4. The Government's policy is firmly based on the principles of this Convention, and appointment of a judicial commission as suggested in the question may well be a probe into the internal affairs of the two central trade union organisations which may in turn be regarded as an infringement of their freedom which the Government has undertaken to guarantee.

5. As regards the first part of the Question, protracted efforts have been made from six distinct quarters, namely, some hon. Members of this House, groups of trade union leaders, His Highness the Oba of Lagos, the officers of the Ministry of Labour, the hon. the Prime Minister himself and myself.

6. The most recent divergence of opinion among the leaders of the central labour movement came into the open in April 1960. From that stage, two factions namely, the Trade Union Congress (Nigeria) and the Nigerian Trade Union Congress came into existence.

7. Shortly after, the first attempt at reconciling both factions was made by members of the House of Representatives, namely, hon. A. U. D. Mbah, the hon. P. E. Ekanem, the hon. M. Amechi and the hon. R. B. K. Okafor, all of whom are known to have close association with the interests of labour in this country. The overtures of these hon. Members were unsuccessful.

8. Another attempt was made in July 1960, by the Central Executive of the Eastern Region Development Corporation Workers' Union who invited both factions to a "Peace Meeting" at Aba. This too failed.

9. In August 1960, a Labour Solidarity Committee was formed in Lagos by some trade union leaders in Lagos. The aim of the Committee was to devise ways and means whereby the rift between the N.T.U.C. and the T.U.C. (N) could be resolved. In its endeavour, this Committee enlisted the sympathy of His Highness Adeniji Adele II, Oba of Lagos. The Oba agreed to intervene and since then, and even as lately as last week, he has continued in his efforts to reconcile the two factions. The latest report I have received indicated that no agreement was reached.

10. With the same end in view, the officer of the Ministry of Labour held several meetings, separately and jointly, with the two factions but no settlement could be reached. Towards the end of last year, my officers made further protracted efforts. The main object at this time was to get the two factions to agree on a unanimous representation of the workers' delegation to the first African Regional Conference of the International Labour Organisation which was due to be held in Lagos in December 1960. Once again, the leaders of the two factions failed to agree.

11. On the 3rd December, 1960, the hon. the Prime Minister and I interviewed the representatives of the two factions and made efforts to get them to unite so as to present a unanimous workers' representation at the I.L.O. Conference. Still the leaders failed to take the hon.

the Prime Minister's advice. The Government was therefore obliged at the last moment to take a decision as to the workers' representation for the Conference.

12. It was then expected that as a result of that action, the leaders would learn a lesson and thereafter endeavour to settle their differences. This expectation did not materialise. Rather, the two factions have been extending their struggles for power to the internal affairs of individual trade unions.

13. This year's Conference is the first that Nigeria will attend as a full member-state of the I.L.O. The Government is therefore determined to send a strong and respectable team of officials, employers' and workers' representatives as its delegation to the Conference. With this end in view, I invited the representatives of the T.U.C.(N) and the N.T.U.C. to a meeting on the 23rd of last month. I appealed to the two factions, firstly, to settle the present disunity in the central trade union movement, and, secondly, to present two candidates jointly agreed to by them to represent Nigerian workers at the forthcoming I.L.O. Conference to be held in Geneva in June this year. In this connection, I stressed the need, in view of the present status of Nigeria, for a determined effort to close ranks so as to ensure once and for all a united central trade union movement. I therefore requested the two sides to get together, agree on the two workers' representatives, and to forward their names to me by the end of the month.

14. Although the time limit was extended to the 12th April, the two bodies were unable to produce a unanimously agreed nomination. At the request of His Highness, Oba Adele II, I again extended the time limit to Saturday, 15th April, 1961. And as already stated above no agreement could be reached.

Employment for Nigerians in U.K.

W.85. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Labour, how many Nigerians resident in the United Kingdom have so far been employed in Nigeria between January 1960 and January 1961, out of about 200 applicants from whom applications were received by his Ministry and referred to prospective employers in various parts of the Federation.

The Minister of Labour : Of the 155 Nigerians resident in the United Kingdom who applied for employment in Nigeria none has so far obtained employment in Nigeria between January 1960 and January 1961 despite all efforts made by the Federal Ministry of Labour to secure employment for them. Some of the applicants were interviewed in the United Kingdom by prospective employers but were not employed. Thirteen application forms of the applicants are still with the prospective employers who have promised to interview the candidates in the United Kingdom in due course. One Government department has advised that four of the applicants should complete the City and Guilds Course after which they would certainly be suitable for consideration as Inspectors of Works (Mechanical).

The main factor which makes it difficult to obtain employment for these applicants is that they are not sufficiently qualified for the supervisory posts for which they have applied.

Refusal to recognise Unions

W.86. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Labour, if he is aware that there are many employers in the country who refuse to recognise unions within their management; and if he will introduce legislation to compel employers to recognise unions registered under the Trade Unions Ordinance.

The Minister of Labour : The answer to the first part of the question is Yes in respect of some employers. In this connection, the hon. Member's attention is invited to that part of my speech in support of the Appropriation Bill relevant to the question. This part is published as paragraph 12 at page 1372 of the official report of the Parliamentary Debates for Wednesday, 12th April, 1961 which reads :—

“In particular, certain instances have come to my notice where employers, for a variety of reasons, have refused to recognise either the union which represents their workers or, if they recognise the union, then they refuse to accept its accredited representatives. In accepting the principle of freedom of association, which is enshrined in our Constitution, the Government has a responsibility to ensure that a suitable climate exists for

it to be a reality, and although the Government accepts the fundamental principle of the voluntary development of sound labour/management relations, it may have to consider what steps should be taken to ensure that the principle of the right of the worker to organise and to choose his representatives is effective”.

The second part of the question is answered in the latter part of the above extract.

WORKS AND SURVEYS

Aba to Oron Road

W.91. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, what plans he has to make the trunk road 'A' from Aba to Oron as wide as that from Aba to Port Harcourt.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : The traffic densities on the Aba-Port Harcourt road are far higher than on the Aba-Oron road and, for this reason and because of limited financial resources, it is not at present planned to make the Aba-Oron road as wide as the Aba-Port Harcourt road. It is hoped to provide for a 22-foot bituminous carriageway between Aba and Oron in the Road Programme, 1962-67.

New Police Station at Uyo

W.93. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how much was spent by the Federal Government on the construction of the new Police Station at Uyo; whether it was built by a contractor; and what is the name of the contractor.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : £7,538. The new Police Station at Uyo was not built by a contractor but by direct labour of the Eastern Region Ministry of Works.

WORKS AND SURVEYS

Road Mileages Tarred

O.51. Mr R. O. A. Akinjide asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, the total number of roads tarred by his Ministry in each of the years 1957, 1958, 1959 and 1960; and what are his plans for increased road development.

The Minister of Works and Surveys :
Federal road mileages tarred are :—

1957-58	.. ..	160 miles
1958-59	.. ..	288 miles
1959-60	.. ..	333 miles
1960-61	.. ..	200 miles

A survey of improvements and construction necessary to accommodate estimated traffic densities up to 1972 has been carried out as the basis for a new road programme. The extent to which these improvements can be executed is dependent upon the finance that can be allocated to them.

Tarring of Jos to Akwanga Road

O.183. Alhaji Isa Haruna asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, what plans he has for improving and tarring the road from Jos to Lagos *via* Akwanga, Abuja, Bida and Jebba, particularly that portion between Jos and Akwanga, in view of its bad condition.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : Much of the route mentioned is the responsibility of the Government of Northern Nigeria. The Jos-Akwanga section is, however, a Federal responsibility and improvements to this section, and tarring where not at present tarred, will be given a high priority in the next Road Programme, 1962-67.

Over-Bridges at Level Crossings

O.184. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will consider building over-bridges for vehicular and pedestrian traffic at the level crossings on the Ogui and Agani Roads in Enugu.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : No, Sir, I understand that the roads concerned are the responsibility of the Regional or the municipal authorities.

Vacant Posts in P.W.D.

O. 185. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how many vacant posts in the technical grades exist in the Federal Public Works Department.

The Ministry of Works and Surveys : There are 117 vacancies in senior technical and 56 in the junior grades of the Works Division of the Ministry of Works and Surveys.

Junior Technical Staff Promotions

O.186. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how many Nigerians who trained as junior technical staff in the service of the Federal Public Works Department have been promoted to the senior grades during the period 1955 to 30th December 1960.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : 104 junior technical staff of the Works Division, Ministry of Works and Surveys, have been promoted since 1955 into the C(T) grades and above.

FINANCE

Moscow Narodni Bank

O.68. Mr R. O. A. Akinjide asked the Minister of Finance, whether he is aware that Moscow Narodni Bank, London Branch, is financing some British local councils for development purposes at a very low rate of interest; and whether he will take early steps to ensure the establishment of a branch of that Bank in Lagos for similar purposes.

The Minister of Finance : I am aware Sir, that there are arrangements in the United Kingdom whereby Local Authorities borrow short-term Loans from commercial banks who have temporary surplus funds and that such loans are made on month-to-month basis or even for shorter periods. The rates of interest are therefore reasonably low. I am also aware that the London branch of the Moscow Narodni Bank has participated in this type of short-term financing through brokers in the City of London. The system works on the understanding that the Local Authorities can always borrow direct from the United Kingdom Government by special arrangements through the Public Works Loan Board if any lender bank suddenly withdrew its temporary loan. Banks normally fit themselves into the financial pattern of the country in which they are operating as the Moscow Narodni Bank has done. If it wished to operate in Nigeria, the Moscow Narodni Bank could apply for a banking licence through the usual channel.

18th April, 1961

COMMUNICATIONS

Investigation Officers

W.24. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Communications, how many Investigation Officers are employed in his Ministry and what are their postings; and how many cases were investigated and successfully prosecuted or otherwise in the years 1958-59, 1959-60 and 1960-61.

The Minister of Communications: Twenty-four Investigation Officers are employed in the Posts and Telegraphs Division of the Ministry of Communications. Their postings are:—

Aba	1
Benin	1
Buea	1
Enugu	2
Ibadan	2
Jos	1
Kaduna	2
Kano	1
Lagos	8
On vacation leave	5
Total	24

Details of Cases investigated

	1958-59	1959-60
(a) Number of cases investigated	859	907
(b) Number of prosecutions	240	245
(c) Number of successful prosecutions	193	179
(d) Number of unsuccessful prosecutions	41	52
(e) Number of cases pending in court	1	4
(f) Number of cases otherwise disposed of	5	10

Particulars in respect of 1960-61 are not yet available.

All cases reported to the Investigations Branch are fully investigated, but only in a relatively small proportion of the cases is action to prosecute commenced.

Attracting School Leavers

W.26. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Communications in view of the fact that there are very few Northerners in the various branches of his Ministry, will he make recruitment tours in the secondary schools of the Northern Region so that school leavers will be attracted to his Ministry.

The Minister of Communications: It has been the practice for the last three years for a Senior officer of Northern origin in this Ministry to visit secondary schools in the North, particularly at the end of the school year, for the purpose of promoting recruitment.

I will consider the Member's proposal in the near future.

Holders of Senior Posts

W.27. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Communications how many Nigerians held senior posts in his Ministry on 1st January, 1961, and what are their regions of origin.

The Minister of Communications: On the 1st January, 1961, there were 377 Nigerians in senior posts in the Ministry of Communications. 179 of these originated from the Western Region, 171 from the Eastern Region, 6 from the Northern Region and 21 from the Federal Territory of Lagos.

POLICE

Inadequate Quarters

W.43. Alhaji Zakari Isa asked the Prime Minister, if he is aware that the number of quarters and barracks provided for members of the Nigeria Police Force is inadequate, particularly in Northern Nigeria; and if he will make arrangements to build more such quarters and barracks.

The Prime Minister: Yes, Sir. The problem of inadequate Police Quarters is not particularly more pronounced in the Northern Region than in the other Regions. It is Government's policy to provide sufficient quarters and barracks for members of the Nigeria Police but the limiting factor is the availability of adequate funds.

COMMUNICATIONS

Abagana Sub-Post Office

W.46. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Communications, what is the number of transaction units attained by Abagana Sub-Post Office in Awka Division; and if he does not think that this figure warrants the conversion of the Sub-Post Office into a full post office.

The Minister of Communications: The units of business at Abagana at present amount to 26,213. This is well below the figure of 40,000 units required under Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 to qualify for the conversion of the existing Sub-Post Office at Abagana to a full Departmental Post Office.

The units of business are, however, kept under constant review and, should the Abagana Sub-Post Office attain 40,000 units, consideration will be given to its conversion to full Departmental Post Office status.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Nigerians in Veterinary Service Posts

W.48. Alhaji Zakari Isa asked the Minister of Economic Development, the number of Nigerian holding senior posts in the Federal Veterinary Services, with particular reference to the West African Institute for Trypanosomiasis Research, from 1959 to date.

The Minister of Economic Development: In the Department of Veterinary Research at present there are ten Nigerians in senior posts. Within the next four years, a further 12 Nigerian Research Officers will have completed their training.

In the West African Institute for Trypanosomiasis Research, there are three Nigerians

in senior posts; one of these is a Laboratory Superintendent while the other two are Field Officers.

COMMUNICATIONS

Telephones in Regions

W.75. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Communications, if he will state the total number of telephones in each of the three Regions of Nigeria, and Lagos, giving outstanding number of applications for installations of telephones.

The Minister of Communications: The following figures are the latest available and show the position at 31st December, 1960.

Place	No. of Telephone Instruments	No. of Exchange Lines	No. of Waiting Applicants
Lagos	15,997	7,156	1,807
Western Region	9,971	5,297	1,657
Eastern Region ..	6,808	3,714	817
Northern Region	8,748	4,044	777

INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS

Federal Palace Hotel Charges

W.67. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Prime Minister, how much was paid to the management of the Federal Palace Hotel, Lagos, in connection with the Independence Celebrations and the Installation of Dr Azikiwe as Governor-General.

The Prime Minister: A total of £175,859-11s-3d was paid to the management of the Federal Palace Hotel for accommodation of guests, State Ball, Banquet, Cocktail Party and for payment of overtime worked by Contractors and Staff to ensure the Hotel being ready for occupation before the arrival of the Independence guests. This amount includes £27,983-11s-3d paid for the accommodation in the same Hotel of some of the guests who attended the installation of the Governor-General.

COMMUNICATIONS

Telephone Trunk Calls

W.76. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Communications what is the daily average number of telephone trunk calls in each of the following towns in 1960 as compared with the statistics for the period 1955 to 1958—Lagos, Ibadan, Port Harcourt, Enugu, Kano and Kaduna.

The Minister of Communications : The average daily totals of effective trunk calls originated from subscribers on the following exchanges are as follows :—

Exchange	Average	
	daily total 1955-58	daily total 1960
Lagos	700	1,030
Ibadan	600	1,050
Port Harcourt ..	100	130
Enugu	130	165
Kano	210	290
Kaduna	250	530

Information relating to the early months of this year already indicates a substantial increase over the 1960 figures, particularly between Lagos and Ibadan where subscribers trunk dialling was introduced in September 1960, and at Enugu, since the conversion of that exchange to automatic working.

MINES AND POWER

Search for Oil in Uyo Division

W.88. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Mines and Power if he will make a statement on the search for mineral oil in Uyo Division of the old Calabar Province.

The Minister of Mines and Power : The area of the Uyo Division of the old Calabar Province was formerly held under prospecting licence by Shell-BP. In this area the company drilled six exploration wells of which only two,

at Ituk, found any oil or gas. Extensive testing of these wells was carried out but production prospects appeared to be poor and further efforts in this area were suspended to develop the more promising oilfields in the vicinity of Port Harcourt.

In January 1960 considerably more than half the area held by Shell-BP in the Division was surrendered but a prospecting licence for most of this surrendered area has since been applied for by Gulf Eastern who will start prospecting as soon as the licence has been signed.

WORKS AND SURVEYS

Maintenance of Ibadan-Benin Road

W.92. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how much was spent annually on the maintenance of the trunk road from Ibadan to Benin for the period 1st April, 1955 to 30th December, 1960.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : 1955-56, £44,027; 1956-57, £37,236; 1958-59, £100,391. Expenditure for the whole of 1959-60 was £132,258, accounts not being available for the broken period to 30th December, 1960.

LABOUR

National Provident Fund

O.193. Alhaji Isa Haruna asked the Minister of Labour, if Government intend to extend the benefit of the proposed National Provident Fund to employees of the Public Corporations.

The Minister of Labour : Yes. Employees of Public Corporations will be treated exactly as other workers, under the National Provident Fund scheme.

MINES AND POWER

Power Station Umuahia-Ibeku

***O.196. Mr C. A. Odigbo** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what steps he has taken to increase the output of the power station at Umuahia-Ibeku.

The Minister of Mines and Power :
A firm order for 234 kw of additional plant was placed five months ago and is due to be delivered and installed within the next few weeks. When this is commissioned the capacity of the power station will be 425 kw which should be adequate to meet the developing maximum demand for sometime.

Electricity to Schools and Hospitals

*O.197. Mr C. A. Odigbo asked the Minister of Mines and Power whether he will consider introducing a more favourable schedule of charges in respect of the supply of electricity to schools and hospitals as a means of encouraging the social functions of these institutions.

The Minister of Mines and Power :
Having regard to the load required by schools and hospitals it is difficult to provide a schedule of charges more favourable than that in the published tariff.

The Electricity Corporation has recently made the general purposes tariff available as an alternative for application to schools and in many cases the tariff has resulted in very substantial savings being made.

Mineral Deposits in Gombe, etc.

*O.202. Alhaji Isa Haruna asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he proposes to exploit the mineral deposits discovered in some parts of Gombe, Hadejia and Bauchi in Northern Nigeria.

The Minister of Mines and Power :
Wherever deposits of minerals are discovered, encouragement is given to Mining Companies who might be prepared to exploit them. I do not myself propose to exploit the deposits of Hadejia, Gombe or Bauchi.

Quota of Tin and Columbite

*O.203. Alhaji Isa Haruna asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what is the present Nigerian quota of tin and columbite since Tin Restriction has been relaxed; and what was the total production of tin and its by-products for 1960.

The Minister of Mines and Power :
No quota has been imposed on the export and production of tin since Tin Restriction was removed on 1st October, 1960. Production and export since that date have been completely free. No quota has ever been imposed on the export and production of columbite.

2. Production of tin and its by-products for the calendar year 1960 were as follows:—

	tons
Tin (Cassiterite)	10,372
Columbite	2,049
Zircon	1,756
Monazite	10

INFORMATION

Radio Station in Bauchi

O.130. M. Balarabe Tafawa Balewa asked the Minister of Information whether he will consider establishing a radio station in Bauchi now that the town has been provided with electricity.

The Minister of Information : Yes, Sir. I will willingly give consideration to this matter and am grateful to the hon. Member for raising it.

MILITARY FORCES

Nigerians Training in England

O.132. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Defence, how many Nigerians are being trained in England under the Defence Agreement.

The Minister of Defence : The present number of Nigerians undergoing training in the United Kingdom under the Defence Agreement is 48; 17 of them in Naval Establishments and 31 in Military Establishments. It is hoped that this number will increase to 114 before the end of the 1961-62 Financial year.

Qualifications of Recruits

O.135. M. Ali Gwarzo asked the Minister of Defence, the numbers and qualifications of school leavers who have been recruited into the Nigerian Armed Forces in the years 1958, 1959 and 1960.

The Minister of Defence : The minimum qualifications for entering the Navy or the Military School is standard VI but in respect of recruitment for the armed Forces, no distinction is made between those who have received a school education and those who have not and consequently no records are kept on the basis of the distinction made in the Question.

O.136. M. Ali Gwarzo asked the Minister of Defence, if he will consider recruiting senior primary VI school leavers into the Royal Nigerian Military Forces, especially from Northern Nigeria, in order to solve the increasing problems of unemployment.

The Minister of Defence : No Sir. There is nothing to prevent Primary VI School leavers from joining the Army; if they are fit, at least 5ft. 6ins. tall, and between the ages of 17½ to 25 they can offer themselves for selection. Competition to join the Army is very keen, however, and some applicants will inevitably be disappointed.

Discrimination in Army Selection

O.208. Mr C. A. Odigbo asked the Minister of Defence, whether he is aware that candidates from Eastern Nigeria, particularly the Ibos, are discriminated against in the selection of Army cadets-in-training; and if he will investigate this point in the interest of peace and unity.

The Minister of Defence : No, Sir. Potential officers from all Regions sit the Entrance Examination, which is set and corrected by the West African Examination Council, and successful candidates appear before the Forces Selection Board. Cadets for training at the Nigerian Military Training College are selected on merit by this Board which consists of four members of whom two are Nigerians. Cadets who pass this Board are sent to the Nigerian Military Training College and their selection for further training in the U.K. depends on their performance on this course and at the Final Selection Board.

The breakdown of cadets under training for Commissions in Nigeria and the U.K. is as under :

North	East	West
23	27 (22 Ibos)	17

The normal recruiting from Regions of soldiers is in the proportion of 50 per cent North, 25 per cent East and 25 per cent West.

Where there are potential cadets of equal merit consideration may be given by the Board to the ethnic balance between Regions.

O.209. Mr N. E. Elenwa asked the Minister of Defence, whether he will consider recruiting Army personnel from various Divisions of the Federation, giving each Division its own annual quota of recruits, in view of the fact that only a particular section in the Federation is being favoured at present.

The Minister of Defence : No Sir. No particular section of the Federation is being favoured. The Regional recruiting centres at Ibadan, Enugu, Kaduna and Zaria are open for the recruitment of young men in these Regions. In addition, mobile recruiting teams visit outlying areas.

Nigerian Soldiers in Congo

O.210. Dr B. U. Zzeribe asked the Minister of Defence, how many Nigerian soldiers are in the Congo at present; how many of them are of Eastern, Western and Northern origin respectively, and how many of them are expatriates.

The Minister of Defence : I have to refer the hon. Member to my answer given to a similar question No. O.27 which was published in the *Hansard* on 6th April, 1961. I am unable, however, to give Regional breakdown of this total as no such records are kept. Once a man is enlisted into the Royal Nigerian Army, he is regarded simply as a Nigerian soldier. There are 38 Expatriates serving in Congo.

Compensation for Officer's Death

O.211. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Defence, what compensation has been paid or planned in respect of the widow of Lieutenant Godwin Ezeugbana, who died while serving in the Congo.

The Minister of Defence : Lieutenant Ezeugbana left no widow so the question of widow's pension under the Military Pensions Ordinance does not arise, but arrangements

are being made to pay into his estate the gratuity of one year's pensionable emoluments which it is lawful under section 14 of that Ordinance to grant to the legal personal representative of an officer or other rank who dies while in the military service.

Death of Lt. Ezeugbana

O.212. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Defence, why the corpse of Lieutenant Godwin Ezeugbana who was killed in the Congo was not returned to Nigeria for burial since the bereaved family was officially given to believe that this was going to be done ; and if he will report fully the circumstances of Lt. Ezeugbana's death.

The Minister of Defence : Lt. Ezeugbana was killed when his platoon was ambushed on its way to protect the Airfield at Kindu. In the course of the fighting that followed his body fell into the hands of the Congolese troops and an intensive search and lengthy subsequent inquiry, in both of which the Congolese troops co-operated, failed to recover it. It is believed to have been buried with their own dead. The report of Lt. Ezeugbana's death was signalled to Battalion Headquarters at Bakavu about 250 miles from Kindu which immediately signalled back to Nigeria asking the wishes of the family as to the place of his burial. It was not then apparent that his body was not in our possession or that it would not be recovered and the battalion commander had no reason to suspect either of these eventualities. It was only two or three days later, after exhaustive inquiries, that it became apparent that his body could not be recovered and could not therefore be sent back to the family for burial. An officer from the Headquarters of the Royal Nigerian Army visited the relatives of the deceased officer and explained the circumstances I have just outlined.

TRANSPORT

Cross River Survey

***O.137. Mr O. J. Eminue** asked the Minister of Transport, now that the Netherlands Engineering Consultants have carried out a survey of the Cross River and submitted a preliminary report, when do Government propose to carry out a full-scale hydrological

survey of the river, and if Government will consider a proposal to build a port at Oron, situated at the mouth of the Cross River.

The Minister of Transport : I regret that I am not yet in a position to make a statement on this matter.

The Cross river rises in the Southern Cameroons and the Government therefore decided to await the result of the plebiscite in that territory before taking any action on the report to which the hon. Member refers.

The report of the study by NEDECO of the Eastern Delta is expected shortly ; when this report has been received and examined, I shall be able to consider the development of ports in the Eastern Region during the next Economic Development Programme.

South African Aircraft

***O.138. Mallam Ahmadu Fatika** asked the Minister of Transport whether it is true that South African aircraft are still using Nigerian airports.

The Minister of Transport : Aircraft on the scheduled services of South African Airways no longer call at Nigerian airports, and no Air Services Agreement exists between the Federal Government and the Government of the Union of South Africa.

Under international practice aircraft registered in South Africa may land at Nigerian airports for non-traffic purposes and in an emergency.

Senior Officers in Civil Aviation

***O.139. M. Yushau A. Mohammed** asked the Minister of Transport the respective number of Nigerian and expatriate senior officers serving in the Department of Civil Aviation.

The Minister of Transport : Twenty Nigerian and forty expatriate senior officers were serving in the Aviation Division of my Ministry on the 31st March, 1961. Of the forty expatriate officers, three are on secondment from the United Kingdom on approved employment terms and fourteen will have retired under the lump sum compensation scheme before the end of 1961.

Rail Transport between Nigeria and Ghana

*O.140. **Mallam Yushau A. Mohammed** asked the Minister of Transport whether he has given consideration to the possibility of providing rail transport between Nigeria and Ghana, *via* Cotonou.

The Minister of Transport: Not yet, Sir, but this is one of a number of possible long-term planning projects which has received consideration by the Stanford Institute of Research, whose report on the economic co-ordination of transport development in Nigeria is now being examined.

Railway Senior Staff

*O.141. **Mallam Yushau A. Mohammed** asked the Minister of Transport if he will state the number of Nigerian and expatriate senior officers respectively serving in the Nigerian Railway Corporation; and how many of each category are in superscale posts.

The Minister of Transport: There are 289 Nigerian and 353 expatriate senior officers serving in the Nigerian Railway Corporation. Of these, 14 Nigerians and 35 expatriates are in superscale posts.

B.O.A.C. and Nigerian Airways

*O.213. **Mr P. I. Eleke** asked the Minister of Transport what relationship exists between the British Overseas Airways Corporation and the Nigerian Airways Corporation; and what percentage of the annual profits accruing from the contract does the Nigerian Airways Corporation receive.

The Minister of Transport: There is a pool partnership agreement between Nigeria Airways and British Overseas Airways Corporation for the operation of the Lagos-London route, under which traffic and profits are shared between Nigeria Airways and the British Overseas Airways Corporation on a fifty-fifty basis.

Maiduguri Aerodrome

*O.214. **Shettima Ali Monguno** asked the Minister of Transport if there are any plans for improving Maiduguri Aerodrome with a view

to bringing it up to international standard, so that it may reduce the apparent congestion at Kano or be used in emergency.

The Minister of Transport: Maiduguri is already registered as an international aerodrome but there are no plans at present to improve its standards, which are adequate for the aircraft that use it.

The facilities at Kano are adequate for the services operated through the airport and I am not aware of any congestion there.

As regards emergencies, there are a number of airports which are situated within a reasonable flying time from Kano. For large long-range aircraft the recognised alternates in case of emergency are Lagos and Accra.

The traffic offering at Maiduguri is small. The hon. Member will appreciate that we must use our financial resources to the best possible advantage and the improvement of the aerodrome at Maiduguri could not be justified at present in view of our many other more pressing commitments.

Ikeja and Kano Airports

O.215. **Shettima Ali Monguno** asked the Minister of Transport if Ikeja and Kano Airports are suitable for handling all types of aircraft, and if not, what steps is he taking to bring them up to the level of airports in neighbouring countries which are used by bigger aircraft.

The Minister of Transport: No, Sir. The airports at Lagos and Kano are unable to accept the largest long-range aircraft, such as the Boeing 707 and the DC 8, at all-up weight, but both airports are able to accommodate the majority of aircraft used on international routes in Africa.

Although I am not necessarily influenced by the actions of neighbouring countries, I am at present considering plans for bringing Lagos and Kano airports up to the standard necessary for modern international long-haul jet operations during the period of the next Economic Development Programme. In doing so, I shall naturally have regard to the intentions of the international airlines which use our airports.

19th April, 1961

POLICE

Steps to check Crime

W.71. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Prime Minister, what steps are being taken to check crimes such as kidnapping, abduction, manslaughter and murder in Lagos.

The Prime Minister : Constant patrolling is carried out by the Police in all parts of Lagos and its environs. This has been effective in keeping such crimes to a relatively small number having regard to the density of population and the large number of undesirable characters who are attracted here in the hope of opportunities for easy money.

COMMUNICATIONS

Cost of Printing Stamps, etc.

O.149. Mr E. C. Akwivu asked the Minister of Communications if he will state what amount of money has been spent in 1958, 1959 and 1960 for the printing of postage stamps, money and postal orders; how much has been earned from their sales in the same years; and what share of earnings from sales have been retained by the Nigerian Post Office.

The Minister of Communications : It is regretted that it has proved impossible in the time available to assemble all the information required to provide an answer to this question. With your approval, Sir, it is proposed to forward the reply for publication in the Official Report as soon as possible.

Post Offices in Igala Division

***O.219. Mr J. A. Yacim** asked the Minister of Communications, if, in view of the inadequacy of the postal services provided in postal agencies, he will consider establishing more post offices in Igala Division to replace these agencies.

The Minister of Communications : There are three Postal Agencies in Igala Division at the present time. These are situated at Ankpa, Ayangba and Dekina. The units of business transacted during 1960-61 at Ankpa were 8,864, and at Ayangba 6,263; both are well below the minimum of 24,000 units required for conversion to Sub-Post Offices under Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.

A third Postal Agency was opened at Dekina on the 5th April, 1961, and approval has been given for a fourth Agency to be opened at Kpata.

There is a full Departmental Post Office at Idah, and it is regretted that the establishment of more Post Offices in Igala Division cannot be justified at present. Consideration will, however be given to providing Savings Bank facilities at the above-mentioned Postal Agencies if application is made to the appropriate Territorial Controller.

Printing Contracts for Postage Stamps, etc.

O.220. Mr E. C. Akwivu asked the Minister of Communications, what contract and/or arrangements, if any, now exist for the printing of postage stamps, money and postal orders, with whom and when the last contracts were made, and when they are due to expire; does he consider the present arrangements satisfactory; and will he indicate what arrangements he intends to make at the expiration of the present ones.

The Minister of Communications : At present, arrangements for the printing of postage stamps and Money Order forms are made on behalf of the Federal Government by the Crown Agents for Overseas Territories and Administrations who, acting on the instructions of the Ministry of Communications, invite the various security printers to submit tenders. In considering the award of contracts, the Ministry of Communications takes into account the cost, the standard of production and the delivery date. The same procedure is followed in respect of each stamp issue and each requisition for Money Orders.

Messrs Harrison and Son Limited, a firm of security printers in London, were awarded the existing contracts for printing the current definitive issue of postage stamps, which was introduced on the 1st January, 1961, and of Money Order forms. The contract for the printing of stamps was placed on the 6th August, 1961, and will continue until the present definitive issue, consisting of all denominations, is withdrawn. The contract for the printing of Money Order forms has been completed.

Postal Orders are printed by the British Post Office, and are over-printed to meet Nigerian requirements. By this means, supplies are obtained very quickly and at very low cost.

The production of postage stamps, Money and Postal Orders must be carried out under rigid security and, for the reasons given in my reply to Oral Question 55 on the 5th April, the arrangements mentioned above are considered to have been satisfactory. The question of establishing a security printing organisation in Nigeria will be reconsidered with other interested parties in the near future.

Improving Postal and Telegraph Services

O.237. Alhaji Isa Haruna asked the Minister of Communications, what he intends to do to improve postal and telegraph services throughout the country, in view of the general complaint about the delay in the delivery of telegrams and dishonesty in the postal service.

The Minister of Communications : The standard of the postal and telegraph services is kept under constant review and, where it is found to be unsatisfactory, immediate steps are taken in an endeavour to remedy the deficiency.

It is not considered that delay in the delivery of telegrams and dishonesty on the part of the staff of the Postal Service are widespread. The Minister will be glad if specific instances are reported to the Ministry when they will be immediately investigated.

Telephone Exchange at Ihe and Lenwe

O.239. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Communications, if he will investigate the need for installation of a telephone exchange at Ihe at Mile 16 along the Enugu-Awgu-Okigwi telephone trunk route, and also at Lenwe at Mile 6 from Awgu on the same route.

The Minister of Communications : Yes, Sir. Consideration will be given to providing telephone service at Ihe and Lenwe when plans for the next Telecommunications Development Programme are drawn up.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Plans for Economy of Nigeria

O.150. M. Yushau A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Economic Development, what plans Government have for developing the economy of Nigeria.

The Minister of Economic Development : My Ministry is devoting considerable attention to the preparation of the next development plan 1962-67 which it is hoped will mark a very significant advance in the development of the Nigerian economy.

The Economic Planning Unit which has been set up in my Ministry, consisting of economists lent by the Ford Foundation as well as Nigerian economists, are working full-time on the preparation of this plan which will be submitted for approval later this year.

Another major project which will have a great impact on the economy is the Niger Dam Project where the preliminary investigations are now completed and the final report is expected this month.

***O.240. Dr B. U. Nzeribe** asked the Minister of Economic Development, what role the United States International Co-operation Administration has so far played in the economic development of Nigeria; what other countries are co-operating with Nigeria on a similar basis; and how much approximately has the Administration invested in Nigeria.

The Minister of Economic Development : The United States International Co-operation Administration have rendered assistance to Nigeria by:—

- (a) Training courses for Nigerians in varied fields;
- (b) Supply of Experts to advise on, and assist in executing various Governmental projects; and
- (c) Financial Aid.

2. Other countries which co-operate with Nigeria on a similar basis are the United Kingdom, Canada, and quite a large number of other countries, who as members of the United Nations are the donors of the technical assistance being offered to Nigeria by the UNTAB through Agencies such as WHO, UNESCO, FAO, ILO, etc.

3. ICA's investment in Nigeria is in the form of grant and loans. At present Grants total over 17 million and Loans over 3 million.

HEALTH

Hospitals and Expenditure

*O.152. M. Yushau A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Health, how many hospitals have the Federal Government provided so far; how many of these were in existence before 1952; and what is the average annual expenditure in purchasing drugs and other equipment for these hospitals.

The Minister of Health: There are 15 hospitals and other treatment centres in the Federal territory of Lagos. Eight of these medical units were built before 1952, and seven since that date. The hon. Member has requested details of annual expenditure in purchasing drugs and other equipment for each of these units, and since this information is rather detailed, it will be inserted in the Official Report.

Details are as follows:—

HOSPITALS AND OTHER TREATMENT CENTRES IN THE FEDERAL TERRITORY OF LAGOS

Hospitals	Before or After 1952	Average Annual Expen- diture £
1. Creek	Before	20,952
2. General	Before	98,257
3. Lagos Island Maternity Hospital	After	64,318
4. Royal Orthopaedic Hos- pital, Igbobi	Before	43,699
5. T. B. Service	After	} 13,992
6. T. B. Sanatorium	Before	
7. Yaba Mental Hospital ..	Before	3,159
OTHER MEDICAL CENTRES		
8. Massey Street Polyclinic ..	After	} 35,706
9. School Clinic, Oko-Awo ..	Before	
10. School Clinic, Ebute- Metta	Before	} 6,117
11. Yaba Dispensary	Before	
12. Suru-Lere Dispensary ..	After	} 11,283
13. Dental Centre	After	
14. Apapa Dispensary	After	} 4,614
15. Ijora Dispensary	After	
		} 9,158

Quack Medical Practitioners

O.153. M. Balarabe Tafawa Balewa asked the Minister of Health, if he will make a statement on a recent incident in which a quack medical practitioner was allowed to

practise in Lagos hospitals; stating particularly who was responsible for it; and what action does the Minister intend to take on the incident.

The Minister of Health: The incident of a quack medical practitioner found practising in Lagos hospitals is most unfortunate and deeply regretted. The spurious medical practitioner has since been arrested and is now standing trial.

2. The facts are that this gentleman presented himself at the Massey Street Polyclinic and when questioned stated that he was a new medical officer and had been posted to that unit by the Chief Medical Adviser. The Doctor temporarily in charge of the Polyclinic did, in fact, attempt to check on this man and his credentials, but due to pressure of work he did not pursue his inquiries about the quack Doctor's credentials and posting.

3. All medical officers in charge of Units have been warned to confirm with the Ministry any letter of introduction presented by any medical officer posted to their respective units before assigning the officer any duties. There are strict formalities for appointing anyone to the post of medical officer and the quack medical practitioner in question never passed through any of the formalities.

4. An investigation into this matter is being held, but I would like hon. Members to know that very strict measures are being taken to ensure that there is no repetition of this incident and any bogus person falsely presenting himself as a qualified doctor will be rigorously prosecuted.

Training more Doctors

O.241 Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Health, whether, in view of the dearth of qualified doctors in the country, he has made provision for the expansion of accommodation for medical students in the existing medical schools.

The Minister of Health: As I informed the hon. Members in my speech during the discussion of the Ministry of Health Estimates in the Committee Stage I have been considering the recommendations of the Ashby Commission's Report on the question of training more

doctors. The hon. Member will be aware that the Report contains the recommendation that the output of the University College Hospital Medical School at Ibadan should be doubled. I am proposing that in the Economic Programme for 1962-67 that not only should the number of doctors from U.C.H. be doubled but also that the new General Hospital at Surulere should be developed into a full teaching hospital, capable of training doctors, and I hope that these measures will result in an annual output of 160 to 200 doctors.

Hospitals, Doctors and Students

O.242. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Health, how many hospitals and doctors there are in Nigeria; and how many medical students are at present undergoing training under Federal Government scholarships.

The Minister of Health : There are 304 hospitals and 720 doctors in Nigeria. The

present number of medical students undergoing training in Nigeria and overseas under Federal Government scholarships is 87.

Expenditure on Lymph

O.243. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Health, if he will state the expenditure on the importation of lymph during the last five years, indicating the quantity that was imported each year.

The Minister of Health : By lymph it is assumed that the hon. Member means Small-pox lymph.

Nigeria produces its own vaccine lymph at the laboratories at Yaba and no money is expended on the importation of lymph. The Federal Government supplies the other Regions and in fact other West African Territories, the latter of course on payment basis.

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INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Births and Deaths in Lagos

W.87. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, if he will give the statistics of births and deaths in Lagos for the years 1959 and 1960, indicating specifically the principal causes of death, the percentage of deaths from each cause, and the average age at death.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : The following are the figures of births and deaths in Lagos :—

1959	..	..	21,791 Births
			4,676 Deaths
1960	..	..	24,042 Births
			4,117 Deaths

I am unable, at this stage, to give the detailed statistical abstract of causes of death for 1960, nor yet the average age at death, since such a figure has little medical significance. The following is the extract for 1959 showing the principal causes of death and the age groups which these causes affect most, by which it will be seen that the highest proportion of deaths affect the age group under 5 years.

Principal Causes	Percentage of Death Rate	Age Group Chiefly Affected
Pneumonia	.. 20.4	Under 5 years
Malaria	.. 13.5	9 months-5 years
Gastritis	.. 7.8	Under 5 years
Bronchitis	.. 2.4	Under 5 years
Birth Injury	.. 3.2	Under 1 year
Vascular Lesion of Central Nervous System	.. 2.3	Adults
Senility	.. 13.0	Over 55

I hope later in the year to have the comparative figures for 1960 and will be glad to supply the hon. Member with them when they are ready.

CIVIL AVIATION

Nigerians Employed

W.89. Mallam Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Transport, the number of Nigerians at present employed in the different branches of the Department of Civil Aviation, region by region; how many are under training in each region; and what is he doing to encourage the employment of Northerners in this Department.

The Minister of Transport : The number of Nigerians at present employed in the Aviation Division of my Ministry is 521. Of this number, 272 are from the Eastern Region, 235 from the Western Region, 9 from the Northern Region and 5 from Lagos.

My policy is to encourage the recruitment of persons from all parts of the Federation provided they are qualified. In accordance with this policy I have ensured that pupils from all three Regions and the Federal Territory of Lagos have entry into the Federal Flying Training School. Of the seven student pilots in the first intake who have passed their aptitude tests two are from the Northern Region, two from the Eastern Region, two from Lagos, and one from the Western Region. Seven other Nigerians are at present receiving training overseas in air traffic control and two are receiving overseas training in telecommunications; of these nine, five are from the Eastern Region and four from the Western Region.

I am aware that the number of Nigerians of Northern origin in the Aviation Division is relatively very small. Recently, however, the Federal Government has set up machinery to press forward the training and appointment of Northerners, and my Ministry hopes to take full advantage of this machinery.

RAILWAYS

Private Travel Agent

W.90. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Transport on what basis has a privately owned travel agent in London by the name of Davell and Co. (London) Ltd., 10 Ryder Street, St. James, London S.W.1., been appointed to undertake the issue of travel air warrant forms to passengers of the Nigerian Railway; if he is aware that this work was formerly undertaken by the Nigerian Railway; and when was this work transferred to Messrs Davell and Co. (London) Ltd.

The Minister of Transport : Messrs Davell and Co. (London) Limited of 10 Ryder Street, London, W.1., were appointed by the Nigerian Railway Corporation to be the Corporation's official travel agents both in London and Lagos with effect from 1st February, 1960. The basis of the agreement was that the Company would carry out the services specified in the agreement without

charge to the Corporation other than the normal cost of air passages booked in the name of the Company for the Corporation. I am aware that this work was formerly undertaken by the Corporation.

The agreement with Messrs Davell and Company was terminated as at the 31st August, 1960. Since that date, travel arrangements have been made in the United Kingdom by the Corporation's London office and in Nigeria by their Headquarters office at Ebute Metta.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Nigeria and Pan-Africanism

O.156. M. Yushau A. Mohammed asked the Prime Minister, whether Nigeria intends to identify herself with Pan-Africanism.

The Prime Minister : The term "Pan-Africanism" is very wide. However, if the intention of the hon. Member is to ask whether Nigeria identifies herself with the interests and aspirations of Africans all over the continent of Africa, the answer is definitely in the affirmative.

INDEPENDENCE

Disposal of Cars

O.157. M. Balarabe Tafawa Balewa asked the Prime Minister, how Government intend to dispose of the Independence cars at present stored on Victoria Island, Lagos.

The Prime Minister : A number of vehicles are being kept to provide transport for the Conference Visitors' Unit. The remaining cars have either been absorbed for use by the Federal Government or have been sold to private individuals. Advertisements for these cars were published in the local Press and a few still remain unsold.

POLICE

Local Police Forces

O.249. Mr C. A. Odigbo asked the Prime Minister, what definite steps are being taken to bring about the gradual absorption of local Government Police into the Nigeria Police Force.

The Prime Minister : None, Sir. In para. 17 (a) Part IV of the Report of the Resumed Constitutional Conference, 1958, it is stated that Local Police Forces should be retained to operate in conjunction with the Nigeria Police.

Nigerian in Southern Cameroons

O.254. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Prime Minister, whether he is aware that Nigerians in the Southern Cameroons, especially the Ibos, are being hunted down and routed out of the Cameroons since that territory decided to join the Kameroun Republic.

The Prime Minister : No, Sir. The position of Nigerians in the Southern Cameroons is being closely watched and appropriate steps will be taken to protect Nigerian nationals and interests should the need arise.

Police Station at Okigwi

O.255. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Prime Minister, whether there is any proposal to provide the Police Station at Okigwi with adequate means of transport to enable them to cope with Police duties in such a vast and well-populated division.

The Prime Minister : This station has now been supplied with its own transport.

EDUCATION

Zaria Branch of College of Arts

O.168. M. Ahmadu Fatika asked the Minister of Education, how soon the Zaria Branch of the Nigeiran College of Arts will be made a university; and whether he is aware that a certain high official of the college is doing all in his power to cause unnecessary delay in the matter.

The Minister of Education : The answer to the first part of this question will be given in the White Paper which is to be presented during this meeting. The answer to the second part of the question is that I am not so aware.

West African Examinations Council

O.169. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Education, the extent to which the West African Examinations Council has been nigerianised; and why redundant expatriate staff are still retained.

The Minister of Education : The West African Examinations Council is a statutory body to which the Federal Government

appoints members as also the Governments of Ghana, Sierra Leone and the Gambia. Accordingly the Federal Government has no direct responsibility for its administration or its staff policy. I can assure the hon. Member however that the "Africanisation" of the Council's staff is proceeding steadily and that there are no redundant overseas officers. Recent appointments of overseas staff have been made on contract terms only and for the purpose of training West African personnel.

Chair of West African Languages

O.170. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Education if he would consider the immediate establishment of a chair of West African Languages in the University College, Ibadan.

The Minister of Education : I should prefer to see the study of West African Languages undertaken as part of the programme of an Institute or Department of African studies; the Ashby Report on Post-Secondary and Higher Education recommends the establishment of such institutions and I will certainly ensure that this recommendation receives full consideration in the near future when plans for the development of University College, Ibadan, in the next quinquennium are under review.

Assistance to Voluntary Agency Schools

O.259. Mr K. Giadom asked the Minister of Education, if Government will consider giving financial assistance to voluntary agency schools in all the regions.

The Minister of Education : The question of the Federal Government giving financial assistance to certain classes of educational activities carried on in schools throughout the Federation, whether owned by Voluntary Agencies or otherwise, has engaged the attention of the Ministry of Education for a considerable length of time. A final decision will, however, have to be awaited.

Inter-Regional Secondary Schools

O.260. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Education, how many of the proposed inter-regional secondary schools have already been established; and where are these located.

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The Minister of Education : No inter-regional secondary schools have so far been established outside the Federal territory of Lagos.

Federal Government Scholarships

O.261. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Education, how many Nigerians are now studying under Federal Government scholarships; how many of these are in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, and West African institutes of higher learning including the University of Nigeria at Nsukka.

The Minister of Education : At the present time 1,218 Nigerians are studying with the aid of Federal Government Scholarships. Of these 412 are studying in the United Kingdom, 79 in the United States of America, 23 in Canada, 36 in Ghana, 23 in Sierra Leone and 638 in Nigeria. Of these studying in Nigeria, 353 are at the University College, Ibadan, 243 at the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology and 47 at the University of Nigeria at Nsukka.

National Council on Education

O.262. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Education, what effort he has made to secure the co-operation of Regional Ministers of Education to establish a national council on education in the light of a motion passed in this House to that effect.

The Minister of Education : I believe the hon. Member is referring to the motion passed by the House of Representatives on 16th August, 1960, which was in the following terms :—

“That, in order to relate Nigerian education to the needs of an independent and united country, this House calls upon the Government to enter into discussions with Regional Governments with a view to establishing machinery to ensure the closest co-operation in all fields of education activity and the attainment of common standards for the country as a whole”.

I am glad to report that there has been the closest co-operation between the four Ministries of Education with meetings at all

levels of Ministers, of Permanent Secretaries and of professional educationists. The White Paper on education will also outline machinery proposed for co-ordinating efforts in the implementation of the recommendations of the Ashby Commission.

Pilot Secondary Schools

O.263. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Education, if he will report progress on the inter-regional pilot secondary schools.

The Minister of Education : As I have already replied in answer to a written question W.50, the whole question of the establishment of Inter-Regional Secondary Schools is being considered in consultation with the Regional Governments. I appreciate the interest of hon. Members in this matter and I shall make a statement at the earliest possible opportunity.

Voluntary Agency Teachers

O.264. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa asked the Minister of Education in what category his Ministry places African Overseas-trained Domestic Science teachers.

The Minister of Education : A voluntary agency teacher who holds a diploma in Domestic Science awarded after an approved 3-year course is placed, with two increments, on the scale shown in section (5) of Table I of the Education (Grant-in-Aid) Regulations, 1958. that is, entering the scale at £489 per annum.

The grading of teachers entering the Government service with this qualification is at present under review. The three officers in this Ministry who at present have this qualification hold personal contract appointments as Women Education Officers on Scale A.

Inter-Regional Secondary Schools

O.265. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Education, the number of inter-regional secondary and technical schools he proposes to build in this financial year throughout the Federation; and how many of them will be built in Okigwi Division.

The Minister of Education : I am in consultation with Regional Governments regarding the establishment of inter-Regional Secondary Schools and technical Schools. I cannot at this stage say whether they will be established this financial year or at what places.

Recipients of Israeli Scholarships

O.266. Shettima Ali Monguno asked the Minister of Education, the Regions of origin of the thirty-six recipients of Israeli scholarships, and how was the selection made.

The Minister of Education : The Federal Government was asked to nominate six Technical students for the award of Israeli Scholarships. Three of them went to candidates of Eastern Region origin and the other three to candidates of Western Origin. Selection was made as a result of interviews of candidates from the Trade Centre and Technical Institute at Yaba. The remaining 30 scholars were selected by the Regional Governments whose methods of selection are not known to me. The list of selected candidates is sent direct to the Israeli Ambassador by each Regional Government.

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OFFICIAL REPORT

SESSION 1961-62

29th March—12th April, 1961

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Com. = Committee Q. = Question.

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