



FEDERATION OF NIGERIA

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DEBATES**

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME I

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FEDERAL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NIGERIA

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 The Honourable M. A. O. Olarewaju—Minister of State.

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 Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour—Chief O. Oweh
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 Abubakar Koguna
 Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications—Mr S. F. Nwika
 Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Internal Affairs—M. Aliyu Zungum
 Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Information—Mr M. Amechi
 Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health—M. Hamza Gombe
 Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Pensions—M. Ibrahim Tako.

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M. Mamudu Koro	Member
M. Ismaila Bici	Member
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Mr K. Swem	Member
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Mr D. Bulus Biliyong	Member
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The Minister of Commerce and Industry	Member
The Minister of Information	Member

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Sir Frederic William Metcalfe, K.C.B.

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(Elected Speaker on 2nd May, 1960)

The Honourable Mallam Ibrahim Jalo Waziri
(Elected Deputy Speaker on 2nd May, 1960)

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Mr E. A. Mensah, M.B.E.	Serjeant-at-Arms
Mr M. C. Onyeje	Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms

FEDERATION OF NIGERIA

Alphabetical List of Members of the House of Representatives

(Returned at the Federal Election, 12th December, 1959)

<i>Member</i>	<i>Constituency</i>
NORTHERN MEMBERS	
A	
M. Salihu O. Abdul	Igbirra
M. Abdullahi, Magajin Musawa	Musawa
M. Rilwanu Abdullahi	Dawakin Kudu
Alhaji Mohammed Bello Abdurraman	Gwadabawa South
Alhaji Abdulkadir Abubakar	Katagum South
M. Garba Jabo Abubakar	Sokoto South West
M. Abubakar, Magatakarda Sokoto	Sokoto West Central
M. Abubakar, Magajin Gari	Ruma Tsaskiya
M. Mohammed Sani Abubakar	Bauchi North East
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Alhaji Adamu, Sarkin Tafarki	Bauchi South East
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M. A. Muhammadu Alangade	Ikara Makarfa
M. Aliyu, Sarkin Puloti	Dange Shuni
M. Yakubu Allanana	Akwanga
M. Auta Anzah	Jema'a
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Alhaji Ahmadu Babandi	Gumel East
S. A. Babatunde, Esq.	Ilorin Central
M. Baiko Maaji Kachalla	Geidam
Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, K.B.E.	Bauchi South West
Albatan Yerima Balla	Adamawa North West
M. Zubairu Bamu	Nassarawa
M. Balang U. Barami	Biu South
M. Usman Barkono	Adamawa West
M. Abdu Bauchi	Kontagora Central
Alhaji Abubakar Bayero	Gabasawa
M. Hamidu A. Bayero	Gwaram
Alhaji Kabiru Bayero	Babura Garki
M. Muhammadu Beyero	Bici West
Alhaji Mohammed Bello, Turakin Argungu	Argungu East
M. Ismaila Abdullahi Bici	Jos Central
Alhaji Bello Farar Hula Bichi	Bici East
M. Muhammadu Bida, Iyan Sokoto	Sokoto Central
M. D. Bulus Bilyong	Tangale Waja
Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla	Abuja
M. Sule Abba Biu	Biu North
M. Umaru Micika A. Buba	Cubunawa Madagali
M. Atto Bungudu	Maradun

<i>Member</i>	<i>Constituency</i>
D	
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M. Abdulkidir Dukku	Dukku Kwami
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M. Bala Muhammadu Dutsinma	Yandaka
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F	
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M. Ahmadu Fatika	Zaria North West
G	
M. Garba Gada	Gada
M. Muktar Gajiram	Bornu North
M. Umaru Galkogo	Minna North
M. Garba, Turakin Paiko	Minna South
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C. Tangul Gaza, Esq.	Wukari
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Alhaji Ahmadu Gorzau	Sokoto South Central
Alhaji Umaru Gumel	Dutse East
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M. Ali Gwarzo	Gwarzo West
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Alhaji Usman Gwarzo	Kiru
Alhaji Muhammadu Gwate	Kura
M. Abdullahi Gwoza	Gwoza
H	
Alhaji Isa Haruna	Jos South
M. Haruna, Wakalin Daji	Daura West
Alhaji Musa Hindu	Fune Gujba
I	
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M. Baba Shehu Ibrahim	Bosari Damaturu
M. Waziri Ibrahim	Kondugamafa
M. Isa Iko	Zuru

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M. Peter Ipu	Zaria South West
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Alhaji Zakari Isa	Kaduna
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J	
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K	
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M. Aminu Kano	Kano East
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M. Umaru Abba Karim	Muri North
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M. Muhammadu Kumo	Ako
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Mallam Maitama Sule	Dawakin Tofa West
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P. Tarkende, Esq.	Iharev Nongov
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M. Umaru Dan Waziri	Gwandu North

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M. Sarki Dalhatu Yola	Gaya South

Z

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M. Saidu Zango	Zaria Central
M. Aliyu Zungum	Kanam

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L. O. Tobun, Esq.	Epe
Y							
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G	
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F. U. Ihe, Esq.	Okigwi North East
B. O. Ikeh, Esq.	Izi South
V. Iketuonye, Esq.	Onitsha South

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							M
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F. U. Mbakogu, Esq.	Awka South
M. T. Mbu, Esq.	Ogoja West
R. N. Muojeke, Esq.	Awka Central
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Aja Nwachuku, Esq.	Afikpo North
V. A. Nwalieji, Esq.	Nsukka West
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S. F. Nwika, Esq.	Ogoni East
J. N. Nwofokoda, Esq.	Izi North
Dr B. U. Nzeribe	Orlu West
							O
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C. A. Odigbo, Esq.	Bende West
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F. C. Ogbalu, Esq.	Awka North
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D. D. Okay, Esq.	Port Harcourt
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F. I. Okoronkwo, Esq.	Aba Urban
N. N. Onugu, Esq.	Nsukka East
I. S. Onwuchekwa, Esq.	Ahoada Central
R. A. Orok, Esq.	Abak North-West
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D. S. Udo-Inyang, Esq.	Opobo North
D. C. Ugwu, Esq.	Nsukka North
B. Ukaegbu, Esq.	Owerri South East
N. D. Ukah, Esq., M.B.E.	Owerri North East
B. U. Ukpong, Esq.	Ikot-Ekpene Central
S. J. Umoren, Esq.	Uyo North
P. U. Umoh, Esq.	Abak South East
Chief M. W. Ubani	Aba Central
							W
J. A. Wachuku, Esq.	Aba North
							LAGOS MEMBERS
T. O. S. Benson, Esq.	Lagos North
L. J. Dosunmu, Esq.	Lagos Central
J. M. Johnson, Esq.	Lagos South

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Wednesday, 30th March, 1960

The House met at 10.00 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

OATHS

Mr Speaker : New Members desirous of taking the Oath will now please come to the Table.

Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following new Members :—

Note Dr Chike Obi—Onitsha Urban.
Alhaji Ibrahim Ladan Fari—Jibiya Kaita.]

PAPERS

Papers (Adjournment).—Papers distributed to Members and deemed to have been laid on the Table, pursuant to Standing Order 11 (3):—

(1) Highways (Capital) Account—Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st March, 1955.

(2) Third Annual Report of the Federal Loans Board from 1st July, 1958 to 30th July, 1959.

(3) General Report and Survey on the Nigeria Police Force for the year 1958.

(4) Review of Salaries and Wages : Report by the Commission appointed by the Governments of the Federation, the Northern Region, the Eastern Region and the Southern Cameroons, 1959.

(5) Annual Report of the Survey Department for the period 1st April, 1958 to 31st March, 1959.

(6) University College, Ibadan : Schedule of Grants and Capital Expenditure as at 30th June, 1957.

(7) Draft Estimates of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria 1960-61 (Recurrent).

(8) Draft Estimates of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria 1960-61 (Capital).

CORRECTION OF SPEECHES IN
OFFICIAL REPORT

Mr Speaker : Order, Order. There is a delay in producing the bound volume of *Hansard*. Members did not observe the provisions of Standing Order 70, paragraph 3.

That paragraph lays down that no verbal corrections to speeches may be received by the Editor after noon on the fourth day. It is the Editor's duty to enforce this Standing Order strictly and not to accept any corrections after 12 o'clock on the fourth day after a speech is delivered.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
COMMUNICATIONS

Radio Licences

O.1. M. Ahmadu Fatika asked the Minister of Communications what amounts were collected in 1957, 1958 and 1959 in respect of radio licences ; and whether a more effective system of collection will be introduced.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Revenue from wireless licences was £10,273 in 1957 ; £6,820 in 1958 and £12,916 last year. I am considering possible improvements in methods of collection.

Rate of Interest of Post Office
Savings Bank Deposits

O.12. Mr S. A. Yerokun asked the Minister of Communications whether he would consider the desirability of increasing the rate of interest of Post Office Savings Bank deposits.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : I am considering, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, the desirability of raising the rate of interest on deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank.

Establishment of Post Office at Iseyin

O.13. Mr S. A. Yerokun asked the Minister of Communications if he had received any representations from the Iseyin District Council on the need for establishing a full post office at Iseyin ; and if he would make a statement.

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

Paper No. 4 of 1957. The Sessional Paper also explains the manner in which the volume of postal business is calculated.

From time to time the Iseyin District Council has represented that there should be a post office at Iseyin, instead of the existing postal agency, but until recently the volume of business at the agency did not warrant any addition to the facilities which it provided. Now by virtue of the business which it is carrying on the agency is eligible to be converted into a sub-post office and it will be so converted if the authorities at Iseyin fulfil the conditions set out in the Sessional Paper.

Telephone and Telegraph Facilities to Azare

O.14. M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar asked the Minister of Communications when work on the extension of telephone and telegraph facilities to Azare will be completed.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : I hope that telephone and telegraph facilities will have been extended to Azare by the end of this year.

Equipping of Post Offices

O.16 Mr N. E. Elenwa asked the Minister of Communications when he would approve and equip the post offices at Omoku in Ahoada Division built by community effort; and whether there are any proposals this year for building post offices in Abua, Engamni and Egbema in Ahoada Division.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The Ministry of Communications will staff and operate the post office which has been built at Omoku by voluntary local effort as soon as it conforms to the standards of the Federal Ministry of Works and Surveys. When inspected last October it had certain defects, which were pointed out to the engineer employed by the local community, and there is no indication that they have been made good yet.

The conditions on which the Ministry of Communications will establish a postal agency, sub-post office, or post office at any given place are set out in the Statement of the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within

Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. The Sessional Paper also explains the manner in which the volume of postal business is calculated. The postal agency at Abua is carrying on business at the rate of 15,464 units a year. The prescribed level for the establishment of a post office is 40,000 units a year, and for a sub-post office, 24,000 units a year. There is no evidence of a demand on this scale for facilities at Engenni or at Egbema.

Air Letter Forms

O.17. Mr N. E. Elenwa asked the Minister of Communications whether he would introduce internal air letter forms imprinted with one stamp in place of the present forms bearing two stamps.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : All air letter forms for postage within Nigeria now being issued to post offices carry the impression of a single two penny stamp. Forms carrying two stamp impressions, while still valid, are left over from old stocks which will soon be exhausted.

Automatic Telephone Exchange in Kano

O.18. M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai asked the Minister of Communications if he would confirm that the Automatic Telephone Exchange would begin to operate in Kano in October this year.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : I doubt if it will be possible to have the new automatic telephone exchange at Kano in operation by October, but I intend that it shall come into service this year.

M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai : Shall I understand that I was terribly misinformed by the former Minister of Communications and Aviation, Chief Akintola, under whose direction a letter was sent to me telling me that this service would definitely be in operation by October this year ?

Alhaji Bello Dandago : I hope the Parliamentary Secretary is only doubting, that there is still hope. Will he assure us that there is a hope and that he is only doubting ?

Alhaji Abdulkadir Abubakar Koguna : Will the Secretary please explain whether there is provision for those who applied for a telephone a long time ago, before the date mentioned here ?

National Income of Nigeria, 1957-1959

O.6. M. Ahmadu Fatika asked the Minister of Economic Development if he would state the national income of Nigeria for the years 1957, 1958 and 1959 ; and what steps he is taking to increase this income.

The Minister of Economic Development : Estimates of National Incomes are usually made for fiscal years. A pilot survey carried out for 1956-57 estimated the National Income in Nigeria at £812 million, that is about £30 per head. This figure shows a cumulative increase of 4 per cent per annum over the Estimates for the previous four years. On the assumption that this rate of increase will be maintained, there are positive indications to this effect, the National Income would be £844.5 million for 1957-58 and £878 million for 1958-59, or £30.7 and £31.35 *per capita* for the same two years. Comprehensive surveys for 1950-51 to 1957-58 will shortly be completed under the direction of a team comprising of Mr Jackson, Director of the Oxford Institute of Statistics, and Dr Okigbo, Economic Adviser to the Eastern Regional Government, and will soon be published. The hon. Member will recollect that at its last meeting the National Economic Council considered that the fundamental objective before all governments was "the achievement and maintenance of the highest possible rate of increase in the standard of living and the creation of the necessary conditions to this end, including public support and the awareness of both the potentialities that exist and the sacrifice which will be required". The Federal Government's Development Policy is based upon this objective and thus the present Federal Budget and Federal Economic Programme are designed to increase the National Income as fast as possible. I shall therefore refer the hon. Member to the Budget Speech of the hon. Minister of Finance and to the Fourth Progress Report on the Economic Programme which will shortly be laid before the House for full details of the various steps being taken by the Federal Government to raise the country's standard of living and, incidentally, its National Income.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Cost of Living Index for Pensioners

O.19. Mr S. A. Yerokun asked the Minister of Economic Development what progress has been made in the preparation of a special cost-of-living index for pensioners.

The Minister of Economic Development : No special price indices are produced for pensioners, nor are any contemplated. Separate consumer price indices are produced for most of the major towns in Nigeria for employees earning under £400 per annum. The main ones are published in the Federal and Regional Gazettes and in the quarterly Digest of Statistics.

HEALTH

Treatment of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis

O.57. M. Aminu Kano asked the Minister of Health if, in view of the fact that many patients die annually of cerebro-spinal meningitis, his Ministry has taken any steps to give effective treatment to patients suffering from this disease.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Healths : Cerebral Spinal Meningitis is a rare disease in the Federal Territory. Between 1956 and 1959 there were only 88 cases reported, 49 of which resulted in the death of the person afflicted. As a disease it is practically confined to the dry savannah zones of West Africa and is more common, of course, in the Northern Region, which area the hon. Member may have had in mind when he raised the question. Between 1956 and 1959 there were 5,061 cases reported in the Northern Region, 675 of which resulted in the death of the person affected. The responsibility for medical treatment of such cases in the Northern Region lies with the Northern Region Government and the figures I have given of cases and deaths indicate how well they have dealt with the situation.

I will send the hon. Member an extract of the Statistics for Cerebral Spinal Meningitis covering the whole of Nigeria, but meanwhile I do not consider the incidence of the disease in the Federal area warrants special measures.

Mr F. Mbakogu : Is the Minister taking steps towards finding the causes of the disease and preventing them so that there will not be further outspread of the disease ?

NIGERIANISATION

Substantive Appointments to Permanent Secretary's Posts

O.20. Dr K. Ezero asked the Minister of Pensions how many Nigerians hold substantive appointments as permanent secretaries in the Federal Public Service; and how many expatriates hold appointments of that rank.

The Minister of Pensions : One Nigerian and eleven expatriate officers hold substantive appointments as permanent secretaries in the Federal Public Service.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya : Will the Minister tell us whether the only man he is referring to is Mr Ani who has been sent on to Pensions; and (2) How soon before independence will Nigerians be appointed as Permanent Secretaries; if not why not?

Chief A. Enahoro : Is the Minister happy about the proportion which the figures indicate and can he give us some assurance that before independence there will be substantial increase?

Implementation of the Nigerianisation Committee Report

O.22. Dr K. Ezero asked the Minister of Pensions whether he will make a statement indicating when Government propose to adopt and implement the recommendations embodied in the Final Report of the Committee on Nigerianisation of the Federal Public Service.

The Minister of Pensions : At this stage I can do no more than give the hon. Member an undertaking that suitable directions will be issued as soon as possible to Ministries, based on the facts established after a study both of the Committee's remarks and of the Ministries' replies to those remarks.

Chief Ayo Rosiji : May I ask the hon. Minister what he is afraid of and why he does not want to implement the recommendations of this Report?

Chief Enahoro : Is the Minister aware that the House is thoroughly dissatisfied with his answer?

Mr Speaker : We cannot go on with supplementaries.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson) : I beg leave to make the following business statement for the week-ending Saturday April 2nd. Tomorrow Thursday March

31st there will be a Speech from the Throne by the Governor-General; followed by the second and third reading of the following Bills :

The Bill to amend the West African Examinations Council (Nigeria Status) Ordinance, 1952.

The Penal Code (Northern Region) Federal Provision Bill; and

The Criminal Procedure (Northern Region) Bill.

On Friday, April 1st, there will be tabled a Motion that a humble address be presented to the Governor-General for his speech; that also will be followed by the Debate on the Address.

On Saturday, I shall make a further business statement for the week-ending 9th April. The business for Saturday April 2nd will be the continuation of the Debate on the Address.

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, we have no objection to the business as outlined by the Minister of Labour. We should have assisted if we had been consulted, and I hope that at an early stage we shall have meetings of the appropriate Committees to discuss the business of the House for the entire sitting. I think this announcement in bits and pieces will not do.

Mr Speaker : It goes beyond the ambit of the statement.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

PENAL CODE (NORTHERN REGION) BILL

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : *Second Reading*—tomorrow.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (NORTHERN REGION) BILL

The Minister of Transport and Aviation : *Second Reading*—tomorrow.

SECOND SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1957-58) BILL

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson) : *Second Reading*—April 28th.

THIRD SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1958-59) BILL

The Minister of Labour : *Second Reading*—April 28th.

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WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
(NIGERIAN STATUS) BILL

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : *Second Reading*—tomorrow.

APPROPRIATION (1960-61) BILL

The Minister of Labour : *Second Reading*—Monday April 4.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at half past ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Thursday, 31st March, 1960
The House met at 10.00 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

Mr Speaker : The Serjeant-at-Arms will now cover the Mace.

(The Mace was duly covered as it lay upon the Table)

(His Excellency, the Governor-General entered the Chamber in procession and took his seat).

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Mr President of the Senate, Mr Speaker, Senators and Members of the House of Representatives :

When I addressed you in January at the opening of the first meeting of this Legislature I deferred giving you a full statement of the policy to be followed by my Government until the present occasion. In formulating their policies my Ministers have resolved to concentrate the national effort on a forward-looking progressive plan for economic expansion which will match the political aspirations of Nigeria in this historic year when the Federation is to become a sovereign and fully independent state.

It is the aim of my Government to develop, for the benefit of all, the whole of the resources available to Nigeria, and to attract such external assistance as may be accepted without any infringement of Nigeria's independent status. Both economic expansion and the development of natural resources depend to a great extent on Nigeria's ability to obtain credit. To this end the Members of the House of Representatives will be asked to consider legislation designed to bring up to date my Government's general borrowing powers and, in particular, to prescribe the conditions under which the Government may issue promissory notes. In accordance with the terms of this legislation my Government will take up the Commonwealth assistance loan of twelve million pounds and will introduce a further Bill to provide for the direct borrowing by the Northern and Eastern Regional Governments of three million pounds from the British Government.

In addition legislation will be introduced for a new customs tariff based upon the Standard International Trade Classification of the United

Nations. It is intended also to regulate the activities of discount companies in Nigeria.

Mr Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives you will be asked to make financial provision for the public services. Your principal task during the present meeting will be to consider the Appropriation Bill together with its supporting estimates for the next financial year. A full exposition of the financial and economic policy of the Federal Government will be given to you in the course of this meeting. If the development programme is to be fulfilled it is absolutely essential for the Government's revenues to exceed the estimated expenditure. My Ministers are much concerned at the severe losses being sustained by the Federal Revenues as a result of tax evasion and of large-scale smuggling across the borders, and they intend to take as a matter of urgency the strongest possible measures to combat this tax evasion and smuggling and thus to secure the revenue of Nigeria.

Mr President, Senators, Mr Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives, my Government is equally concerned to ensure the maximum of economy in government spending so that the financial strength and credit-worthiness of the Federation may be maintained. A far-reaching policy of economy will be rigorously pursued and certain specific economy measures will be announced during the course of this meeting. Ways and means are being studied to improve efficiency in the Federal Public Service and to keep overhead charges within reasonable limits.

The new Ministry of Economic Development will work both to strengthen the machinery for development planning and to ensure effective co-operation in this field between all the Governments in Nigeria. Especial attention will be given to the co-ordination of technical assistance from overseas in order to conserve development funds for such services as cannot be obtained from those sources. The investigation of the proposed multi-purpose dam on the River Niger will be pressed forward vigorously, with the welcome assistance of a grant from the United Nations Special Fund. My Government hopes that this important project will be the central feature of the next development plan.

My Government is particularly concerned to encourage the appreciable number of oils firms who are showing practical interest in the establishment of the oil industry in this country. Assistance will be given in the exploration and development of new areas, and special attention is being

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given to the possibility of finding oil in the Northern Region. With the completion of a tanker terminal at Bonny oil exports should continue to show an increase, and plans are already in hand for the erection of a refinery in Nigeria. The staff of the Geological Survey Division is being increased in order to speed up the programme of mapping and investigating those mineral deposits which should prove of economic importance to the Federation. The renewal of the International Tin Agreement will be considered this year by the United Nations. My Government will support its renewal and will ask for the inclusion in the new agreement of provisions to ensure that any future restrictions imposed on the mining of tin shall not affect the sale of columbite.

The Electricity Corporation is carrying out projects of long-term expansion. Construction will begin on the new power station at Afam near Port Harcourt and plans are well advanced for the extension of the Kano power station. The expansion of the Ijora Power Station will be completed this year and will treble the output capacity. Transmission lines from Ijora will be extended to both Abeokuta and Ibadan, thus providing a considerable improvements in the electrical efficiency in those towns.

In conjunction with the Regional Governments my Ministers will promote Nigerian participation in industry and commerce, and will stimulate investment from overseas on terms advantageous to Nigeria and profitable to the investor. In particular, efforts will be made to develop a tourist industry. With this and the promotion of the export trade in mind my Government has decided to mount a national exhibition to coincide with the Independence Celebrations in October. The theme of the exhibition will be "Nigeria To-day and Tomorrow" and all aspects of trade and industry in Nigeria as well as of Government activities will be displayed.

In fostering the economic development of Nigeria the Federation has important responsibilities for providing speedy and efficient methods of communications. Amongst the new services being brought into operation this year are the new General Post Office in Lagos, which will be equipped with the most modern types of mechanical handling equipment; and an international Telex system which will make possible direct office-to-office telegraphic communication between Nigeria and Europe and America. Major automatic telephone exchanges will be completed at eight important centres including the three Regional

Capitals and Kano, and a Micro-wave Radio Trunk system will increase the number of trunk lines between Lagos and Ibadan by one hundred and twenty.

My Government also recognises the importance of improving the road and rail communications to keep pace with the growing needs of Nigeria. Further improvements to the Trunk 'A' system will be carried out by bituminous surfacing, bridge strengthening and rehabilitation. Apart from road projects which are expected to be undertaken by contractor finance arrangements nearly three and a half million pounds worth of capital road works will be carried out, and work will start on the Niger Bridge. Two other major road projects, namely improvements to the Trunk Road A1 and the completion of the Shagamu Ijebu-Ode Benin road will be the subject of negotiations for contractor finance arrangements.

Construction of the 400 mile railway extension to Maiduguri continues and the present satisfactory rate of progress will make it possible to open the line to traffic as far as Bauchi by April of next year.

Aviation is playing an increasingly important part in the affairs of the Federation. The runway at Lagos airport has been improved to accept large turbo-propellor aircraft such as the Britannia, and the types of heavier aircraft which are likely to succeed them before long. In addition to aircraft which are now being used for the training of Nigerian air pilots, my Government will shortly be receiving a generous gift of two aircraft from the United Kingdom Government to increase the facilities for such training.

Conscious of the fact that material progress cannot properly benefit the people of Nigeria unless Nigerians are able to fill the managerial, professional and administrative posts for which University qualifications are recognised as being necessary, and the technical and supervisory posts for which a high level of Secondary School education is required, and in view of Nigeria's rapidly approaching Independence, my Government has increased the number of Federal Scholarship awards from 180 to 540 for each of the next two years. My Government intends to seek the co-operation of the Regional Governments in establishing inter-regional secondary schools and technical institutes which will be financed completely from federal funds. With the generous grant of half a million pounds given by the Shell and British Petroleum Companies the facilities at Yaba Technical Institute are being developed to raise the output of technicians to 200 each year.

[GOVERNOR-GENERAL]†

To those already in industry my Ministers will continue to afford every assistance necessary to promote good industrial relations based on the accepted principles of voluntary negotiation and consultation. After consultation with the Regional Governments my Government will introduce a Bill to revise the Labour Code Ordinance so that its provisions may be more closely aligned with the International Labour Conventions which have been accepted by the Federal Government. In addition a Bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance will be introduced to bring within its protection workers who may sustain incapacity as a result of illness arising from the contraction of an occupational disease.

My Government, in association with the Regional Governments and Associations of Employers and the Trade Unions will examine proposals for the introduction of a national provident fund scheme to benefit workers in their old age or on their retirement from active wage-earning. If such a scheme can be agreed upon and introduced, it will mark a significant advance in the field of social security in this country.

The physical needs of the community are being met by a realistic medical development plan including building projects aimed at providing Lagos with all the necessary facilities for curative medical services. It is the aim of my Government ultimately to provide free medical attention in maternity cases, and my Government is considering the progressive abolition of all charges in respect of children. Of the building projects the most important are the 200-bed maternity hospital in Campbell Street which will be opened shortly and the one and a half million pounds Mainland General Hospital which will be completed next year. When the Campbell Street Maternity Hospital is opened work will at once begin on converting the Massey Street Hospital into a temporary children's hospital, the need for which is fully recognised. At the same time work will be put in hand for the reconstruction of the General Hospital Outpatients Department and the gradual replacement of all temporary buildings there. Attention will also be given as a matter of urgency to the strengthening of the Public Health and Preventive Medical Services and to the vigorous application of the knowledge already available in this field, particularly with regard to the eradication of malaria, smallpox,

malnutrition, meningitis, and other diseases attributable to faulty environmental hygiene.

The Lagos Housing Scheme, started in 1955 with a view to providing 1,300 houses in the Suru-Lere area for low income group workers has now been completed. There is still a great scarcity of accommodation for these workers and my Government fully conscious of its responsibilities towards this important section of the community, intends to provide a further sum of one million pounds for another Worker's Housing Scheme which will bring greater comfort to the workers and at the same time reduce the level of rents which is largely responsible for inflating the cost of living. My Government will introduce a comprehensive Bill to regulate the registration of title to land in Lagos.

On Victoria Island further development will be carried out to create a residential area. The expansion of the industrial area at Ijora will be pursued vigorously. Slum clearance and the re-development of Lagos is also receiving special attention and every effort will be made to ensure that Lagos will provide a truly worthy setting for the Independence Celebrations.

The achievement of Independence will bring many new responsibilities with it. Legislation will be introduced dealing with those aspects of the creation of a Nigerian Citizenship which are not included in the Constitution. In the international sphere my Government intends to apply for membership of the United Nations and of other international bodies including the Universal Postal Union and the International Telecommunications Union. In fact, formal applications for membership have already been lodged with the major international financial institutions; the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the International Finance Corporation.

It will be necessary to think out carefully Nigeria's future foreign policy and my Ministers are giving anxious consideration to this now, so that when the country achieves Independence the Government will have a well thought out policy to follow. This will be based on a free, equal and friendly association both in Commonwealth and also with all countries in the United Nations Organisation. My Government deplores the recent tragic bloodshed in South Africa, and when Nigeria achieves Independence my Ministers will employ every method which may be open to them to bring such tragic events to an end (Applause). My Ministers feel confident that

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with the influence which an independent Nigeria can exercise in Africa, they will be able to achieve important results.

Preparations for the establishment of effective diplomatic representation overseas immediately after Independence will continue during the first six months of the financial year. There will be considerable expansion both in the staff concerned with External Affairs in Lagos and in the staff of the offices already established by Nigeria overseas. Recruitment for overseas representation will continue during the year and it is hoped that there will be approximately 55 career civil servants either trained or in process of training for overseas representation by the end of the year. Legislation will be introduced before the date of Independence to enable diplomatic immunities and privileges to be granted to the representatives of foreign countries in Nigeria. Legislation relating to the Defence Services will also be introduced, including a Bill which will consolidate and amend the law relating to the Royal Nigerian Military Forces and its Reserves with the object of providing a complete military code suitable for an Independent Nigeria and of superseding United Kingdom military legislation. This Bill will include provision for the establishment of a Military Forces Council which will be presided over by the Minister of Defence and which will have general responsibility for the command, discipline and administration of the military forces. A separate Bill will be presented for a new Royal Nigerian Navy Ordinance to provide from the date of Independence for a Naval Board with powers parallel to those of the Military Forces Council and generally to adapt existing Naval legislation to the changed conditions which will obtain in Nigeria after Independence.

Proposals for the equipping and modernising of the Military Forces will be laid before the Members of the House of Representatives in the Appropriation Bill. Provision will also be made for the expansion of the Royal Nigerian Navy to allow for manning of further ships which are to be acquired during the year.

The Appropriation Bill will also reflect recommendations made by the Police Council for a considerable expansion of the Nigeria Police Force. These recommendations follow a survey of the requirements of the Police Force if it is to be an effective instrument to maintain law and order. The responsibility hitherto exercised by the Nigeria Police for immigration and passports will be transferred to civilian control in the

Ministry of Internal Affairs and in the External Affairs Division respectively.

Legislation will be introduced to empower the police engaged in investigating cases of bribery and corruption in Lagos to examine the bank accounts of suspects, and my Government will invite the Regional Governments to introduce similar legislation.

Other legislation which you will be invited to consider will include a Bill to replace the Prisons Ordinance and two further Bills to provide for the establishment of Borstal Institutions and Remand Homes, and to enable the Courts in Lagos to pass sentences of Borstal training on persons between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one.

Three Bills will be introduced dealing with cinemas. The Cinematograph (Federal Censorship) Bill will replace the present Ordinance and two other Bills will provide for safety provisions in cinemas and for the censorship of film posters in Lagos. My Government is giving consideration to the introduction of external broadcasting.

A further Bill will propose amendment to the Moneylenders' Ordinance, and a new Wireless Telegraphy Bill will provide for the many developments which have taken place since the existing Ordinance was enacted. There will also be a Bill dealing with the co-ordination and simplification of the law relating to explosives.

My Ministers firmly believe that one of the most important tasks of the Federal Government is to harmonise the development programmes of all the Governments in Nigeria. My Government will therefore encourage full inter-governmental co-operation, consultation, co-ordination and joint planning, and will give its full support both to the National Economic Council and to all measures designed to secure good relations between the several Governments.

The policy of Nigerianising the Federal Public Service is kept under constant review by my Ministers, and the training of Nigerian manpower is being intensified. Vigorous steps are being taken to place Nigerians in positions of responsibility so that they may gain the necessary experience. A Northern Branch of the Federal Training Centre will be opened in Kaduna with a pilot scheme for sixty trainees.

Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, at your last meeting you passed unanimously a Resolution authorising my

Government to ask for Nigeria's Independence. My Government accordingly made representations to Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and I am happy to announce that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has now replied confirming that legislation will be introduced during the present session of Parliament to enable the Federation of Nigeria to become fully independent on the 1st of October (applause) and that Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom will also support with the Governments of the other members of the Commonwealth Nigeria's desire to become a member of the Commonwealth on Independence.

This is therefore the last occasion on which the Speech from the Throne will be read in a dependent Nigeria. The next Speech will be read to the Parliament of a fully Independent Sovereign State (applause). I therefore wish to take this opportunity of saying how very proud I have been personally to hold the office of Governor-General during these last historic years and to have played some part in the process which has led to the present happy situation. I should like to thank you all for the consideration and goodwill which you have always shown to me, and to give you all, as the Federal Parliament of this great country, my very best wishes for the future.

I pray that Almighty God will guide your work and will bless your counsels with success and happiness for this land and for all its peoples.

(Loud applause).

His Excellency retired from the Chamber.

WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

(NIGERIAN STATUS) (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for second reading read.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill for an Ordinance to amend the West African Examinations Council (Nigerian Status) Ordinance, 1952, be now read a second time.

The West African Examinations Council was established in 1951 and serves not only Nigeria but Ghana, Sierra Leone and the Gambia. The Council derives its legal existence from the Gold Coast Ordinance of 1951 which was given effect in Nigeria by the West African Examinations Council (Nigerian Status) Ordinance, 1952. Under the old legislation certain powers were vested in the Secretary of State for the Colonies. These

included the nomination of a Chairman of the Council and two members representing the Universities of Cambridge and London, certain disciplinary control of staff, as well as powers in connection with other matters such as making of contracts, the acquisition of property and the borrowing and investment of funds. Changes in the status of Ghana and Nigeria have made the existing legislation inappropriate and the purpose of the Bill before the House is to transfer the powers previously vested in the Secretary of State to a more appropriate body.

Section 2 of the existing Nigerian Ordinance gives the Council established by the Gold Coast legislation of 1951 its status within Nigeria. The old Gold Coast Ordinance has recently been amended in order to transfer from the Secretary of State to the Council itself the power to nominate a Chairman and from the Secretary of State to the Chancellors of Cambridge and London Universities the power to nominate members to represent these institutions. Section 2 of the Bill before the House will make these changes applicable within Nigeria.

Section 3 of the Bill again seeks to withdraw from the Secretary of State for the Colonies certain powers of direction vested in him in connection with contracts and other matters which I have mentioned. At the same time it repeats certain provisions of the existing legislation relating to audit and to the acquisition of land.

Mr Speaker, I do not think that there is anything controversial in this Bill. It is essentially a tidying up operation necessitated by constitutional changes. Ghana and Sierra Leone have already amended their legislation and I understand that the Gambia will shortly do so. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South): Mr Speaker, Sir, though this Bill may not be controversial I think it is high time the Government of the Federation had a comprehensive Legislation covering all the functions of the West African Examinations Council. At present what we have is just adaptation from the Ordinance of the Gold Coast which is now Ghana. We should know that Ghan

since becoming independent had retracted from many things with which Nigeria is connected. We have the West African Cocoa Research Institute, the West African Airways and also the West African Military Training Scheme. Ghana had retracted from all these things and one day, before we are aware, Ghana may also retract from this West African Examinations Council; so it is necessary that there should be a comprehensive Ordinance for Nigeria. Ghana is a much smaller place than Nigeria and there are certain things in the Ordinance which may not be quite suitable for Nigeria.

At present the principal function of the West African Examinations Council is the conducting of two principal examinations—the West African School Certificate Examination and the General Certificate of Education. The West African School Certificate Examination is for schools and it is conducted at the end of the school year. That is what it should be but the General Certificate of Education is taken only once a year in this country whereas it should be twice. In the Gold Coast (Ghana) it may be taken once a year as a smaller country but it should be twice a year in Nigeria where we have a larger number of candidates. This examination should be taken in January and July of the year and the so-called qualifying test in English should not exist. It should be abolished in this country. There is no need for the qualifying test at all. Instead of the qualifying test there should be a real examination, the G.C.E. examination, and if anybody who takes part in this examination fails to qualify, I think that is sufficient, and there should be no need for the qualifying test for the G.C.E. This country is in a great hurry for development; we want so many people to go into the universities, and if we have the G.C.E. twice a year it will be possible for more students, within that one year, to enter the University. So, Mr Speaker, Sir, those are my observations on this Bill. (Applause).

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion, but I want to make a few observations. This is the age of Nigerianisation, and I plead that the West African Examinations Council would want at this time to bring the policies of that Council in line with the spirit of independence.

The contents of the examinations will be Nigerian in character, and I think that we will have to—well, I do not mean to forget the use of the Council in Nigeria—but I mean that it must of necessity bring the contents of the curriculum in line with Nigerian aspirations for freedom and independence.

Now I would want to emphasise that the examination result this year has been unduly delayed, and I do not know what has been the cause of the delay. There has been much anxiety in this country over the result of the examination, and I think that if it increased its facilities it would serve the country better if such result, in future, would come out at a regular interval, so that boys who took the examination would not feel too anxious. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Mr Speaker, Sir, I think I shall have to elucidate some of the points made by the two hon. Members. In reply to Mr Ajasin, the cause of delay of the results of this examination is due to an increasing number of candidates, mostly private candidates, and this number is not likely to abate. The essence of the qualifying test which has been mentioned by Dr Okeke is that no one candidate is eligible to sit for these advanced or ordinary examinations unless this qualifying test is held. This helps those who have not the privilege of entering Secondary Schools to take the examinations. He ought to know this himself.

Mr Ajasin mentioned the qualifying test and said the G.C.E. should be held twice a year. At present there is an increasing difficulty in the administration and correction of these papers; and without the help of machinery which has just been introduced the delay in the results of this examination could have been delayed three to six months. So that the West African Examinations Council cannot have a curriculum which is peculiar to Nigeria. The curriculum should be based on the advancement of all West African countries. It is centred in Ghana, because Ghana is the central point for these examinations. Ghana is half way between Nigeria, and the Gambia and Sierra Leone, so that... (Interruption). The West African Examinations Council has always taken into consideration the inclusion in its curriculum, as mentioned by Dr Okeke, of the aspirations of all West African countries.